

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### A PROCLAMATION HONORING NANCY CHILES DIX

**HON. ROBERT W. NEY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. NEY. Mr. Speaker, I commend the following article to my colleagues:

Nancy Chiles Dix has spent her life serving people. As a member of the Ohio State Senate, she worked tirelessly in Columbus to represent the people of our area with honor. For years, Nancy has also been an avid supporter of the Republican party, always willing to put forth the extra effort to support the party and its candidates.

Additionally, Nancy devotes her time to supporting increased cancer research and educating our young people. She was recently honored at the John A. Alford Memorial Dinner for her commitment and support of cancer research and named the President of the Par Excellence Learning Center in Newark, OH.

Over the years, Nancy has proven herself to be a great friend not only to myself but to our entire area.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that my colleagues join me in honoring Nancy Chiles Dix. Her lifelong service and commitment are to be commended. I am proud to call her a constituent and a friend.

### INTRODUCTION OF H. CON. RES. 259—EXPRESSING THE CONCERN OF CONGRESS REGARDING HUMAN RIGHTS VIOLATIONS BASED ON SEXUAL ORIENTATION

**HON. TOM LANTOS**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. LANTOS. Mr. Speaker, with the support of 30 of our colleagues—including both Republicans and Democrats—I introduced House Concurrent Resolution 259, a bill decrying human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity. I did this, Mr. Speaker, because I believe very strongly that we in the Congress must send a strong message that—no matter what any of our colleague's views may be on the question of the lifestyle of gays and lesbians—that gay, lesbian, bisexual and transgender people must be treated with dignity and respect, not with hatred and violence.

All around the world, Mr. Speaker, unacceptable violations of human rights have taken place against individuals solely on the basis of their real or perceived sexual orientation. These ongoing persecutions against gay people include arbitrary arrests, rape, torture, imprisonment, extortion, and even execution.

The scope of these human rights violations is staggering, and for the victims there are few avenues for relief. Mr. Speaker, some states create an atmosphere of impunity for rapists

and murderers by failing to prosecute or investigate violence targeted at individuals because of their sexual orientation. These abuses are not only sanctioned by some states, often, they are perpetrated by agents of the state.

Mr. Speaker, in Afghanistan, men convicted of sodomy by Taliban Shari'a courts are placed next to standing walls by Taliban officials and subsequently executed as the walls are toppled upon them, and they are buried under the rubble. Police in countries such as Turkey, Albania, and Russia, among others, routinely commit human rights abuses such as extortion, entrapment, and even physical assaults.

In Brazil, a lesbian couple was tortured and sexually assaulted by civil police. Despite the existence of a medical report and eye-witness testimony, their case remains unprosecuted. Many of us in the Congress protested when, in Zimbabwe, members of "Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe" were threatened and brutally assaulted for forming an organization to advocate for social and political rights. In Uganda, the president ordered police to arrest all homosexuals, and the punishment for conviction of homosexual activity is life in prison.

Mr. Speaker, around the world, individuals are targeted and their basic human rights are denied because of their sexual orientation. The number and frequency of such grievous crimes against individuals cannot be ignored. Violence against individuals for their real, or perceived, sexual orientation violates the most basic human rights this Congress has worked to protect and defend.

H. Con. Res. 259 puts the United States on record against such horrible human rights violations. As a civilized country, we must speak out against and condemn these crimes. Our resolution notes the violence against gay people in countries as wide ranging as Saudi Arabia, Mexico, China, El Salvador, and other countries. By calling attention to this unprovoked and indefensible violence, this resolution will broaden awareness of human rights violations based on sexual orientation.

H. Con. Res. 259 reaffirms that human rights norms defined in international conventions include protection from violence and abuse on the basis of sexual identity, but it does not seek to establish a special category of human rights related to sexual orientation or gender identity. Furthermore it commends relevant governmental and non-governmental organizations (such as Amnesty, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission) for documenting the ongoing abuse of human rights on the basis of sexual orientation. Our resolution condemns all human rights violations based on sexual orientation and recognizes that such violations should be equally punished, without discrimination.

This legislation is endorsed by a broad coalition of international human rights groups, gay rights groups, and faith-based organizations, among others. They include: Amnesty International, International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, Human Rights

Watch, National Gay and Lesbian Taskforce, Human Rights Campaign, Log-Cabin Republicans, Liberty Education Fund, National Council of the Churches of Christ in the USA, Equal Partners in Faith, the United Church of Christ, the National Organization of Women (NOW), NOW Legal Defense and Education Fund, and the Anti-Defamation League.

Mr. Speaker, the protection of gender identity is not a special right or privilege, but it should be fully acknowledged in international human rights norms. I ask that my colleagues join with me in wholeheartedly embracing and supporting basic human rights for all people, no matter what their sexual orientation might be. It is the only decent thing to do.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that the text of H. Con. Res. 259 be included in the RECORD.

### HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 259

Expressing the concern of Congress regarding human rights violations against lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals around the world.

Whereas treaties, conventions, and declarations to which the United States are a party address government obligations to combat human rights violations, and the overall goals and standards of these treaties, conventions, and declarations in promoting human rights of all individuals have been found to be consistent with, and in support of, the aspirations of the United States at home and globally, as well as consistent with the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas articles 3 and 5 of the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights, articles 6 and 7 of the 1966 International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, and the 1984 Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment, guarantee all individuals the right to life, liberty, and security of person, and guarantee that no one shall be subjected to torture or to cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or punishment;

Whereas the fundamental human right not to be arbitrarily deprived of life is violated when those convicted of homosexual acts in Afghanistan are sentenced to be executed and are crushed by having walls toppled over them, and there remain a number of other countries around the world that call for the possible execution of those convicted of homosexual acts, including Saudi Arabia, Yemen, Kuwait, Mauritania, and Iran;

Whereas the fundamental right not to be subjected to torture or other cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment is violated when gay men, lesbians, bisexuals and transgendered individuals are subjected to severe beatings while in police custody in Turkey and Albania, and individuals in these groups are also routinely the victims of human rights abuses, such as extortion, entrapment, physical assaults, and rape, committed by the police in Mexico, Argentina, and Russia, among other countries;

Whereas a number of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals are targeted and tortured or killed by paramilitary groups in Colombia and El Salvador, which operate in collusion with the military, police, and other government officials;

Whereas articles 2 and 7 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 2,

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

14, and 26 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantee all individuals freedom from arbitrary discrimination and equal protection before the law;

Whereas in many countries arbitrary detention or cruel, inhuman, or degrading treatment or conditions in detention directly result from the application of penal laws criminalizing same sex behavior between consenting adults, such as a 5-year sentence for private same sex behavior between consenting adults in Romania, and some of those individuals who have been convicted in Romania report torture, including rape, in prison, and all are unable to seek redress for abuses in detention;

Whereas in Pakistan and Saudi Arabia the sentence for same sex behavior between consenting adults includes "flogging" and in Singapore and Uganda the sentence for same sex behavior between consenting adults can extend to life in prison;

Whereas many governments, on the basis of vague laws, may target and persecute lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals: in the People's Republic of China individuals in these groups are imprisoned under laws against "hooliganism", in Argentina, individuals in these groups are imprisoned under the laws against "vagrants and crooks", and the vagueness of these laws makes it difficult to monitor governmental persecution;

Whereas articles 19 and 20 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and articles 19 and 22 of the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights guarantee all individuals freedom of expression and freedom of association;

Whereas the fundamental rights of freedom of expression and association are violated when governments deny the right of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals to form organizations or advocate for rights, such as in Zimbabwe where members of Gays and Lesbians of Zimbabwe (GALZ) have been threatened and brutally assaulted;

Whereas in some countries agents of the government are directing or are complicitous in abuses committed on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity and investigations and prosecution of those agents for violations often do not occur;

Whereas due to failure by governments to investigate and prosecute human rights violations based on sexual orientation and gender identity, private individuals feel encouraged to violently attack lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals with impunity, contributing to the atmosphere of fear and intimidation;

Whereas lesbians and bisexual women who suffer human rights violations are often abused because of their sexual orientation while their gender often incites, compounds, and aggravates this abuse, and, moreover, since their gender is not recognized as a factor, their abuse often goes unrecorded;

Whereas violations of internationally recognized human rights norms are to be considered crimes regardless of the status of the victims and are to be punished without discrimination;

Whereas fundamental access to legal protection from violations of internationally recognized human rights norms is often unavailable to the victims;

Whereas lesbians and bisexual women face additional obstacles in these countries when seeking assistance from police, judges, and other officials due to pervasive gender bias;

Whereas the preceding clauses constitute only a few examples of the violations suffered by lesbians, gay men, bisexuals and transgendered individuals, the full range and extent of such violations are not known be-

cause governments create an atmosphere of immunity for those perpetrating such human rights violations and prevent victims from seeking effective protection and just redress and thus their suffering remains undocumented and unremedied; and

Whereas many nongovernmental human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, as well as the United States Department of State and the United Nations, have documented, and are continuing to document, the ongoing violations of the human rights of lesbians, gay men, bisexuals, and transgendered individuals: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved by the House of Representatives (the Senate concurring), That Congress—*

(1) condemns all violations of internationally recognized human rights norms based on the real or perceived sexual orientation or gender identity of an individual, and commends nongovernmental human rights organizations, including Amnesty International, Human Rights Watch, and the International Gay and Lesbian Human Rights Commission, as well as the United States Department of State and the United Nations, for documenting the ongoing abuse of human rights on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity; and

(2)(A) recognizes that human rights violations abroad based on sexual orientation and gender identity should be equally punished without discrimination and equally classified as crimes, regardless of the status of the victims and that such violations should be given the same consideration and concern as human rights violations based on other grounds in the formulation of policies to protect and promote human rights globally; and

(B) further recognizes that the protection of sexual orientation and gender identity is not a special category of human rights, but it is fully embedded in the overall human rights norms defined in international conventions.

#### REGIONAL PARTIES WIN IN INDIA; INDIA'S DISINTEGRATION AP- PEARS CLOSER

**HON. JOHN T. DOOLITTLE**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. DOOLITTLE. Mr. Speaker, recently regional parties won elections in two states in India. Neither the ruling BJP nor the opposition Congress Party was able to pull off a complete victory.

These results only increase the instability that already plagues India. To retain control of the government, the BJP had to assemble a coalition of 24 parties. Clearly, the days when a national party could dominate India's government are gone.

While the political instability increases, there are 17 independence movements within India's borders. Many experts on the situation in South Asia have predicted the disintegration of India. From these results it looks like that disintegration is closer.

America is a country founded on the idea of freedom. I urge President Clinton to raise the issue of freeing the political prisoners during his upcoming visit to India. I also urge him to bring up the question of self-determination. It is time to speak out for freedom.

#### TRIBUTE TO SUSAN SKERKER

**HON. JOHN D. DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor and congratulate a good friend as she marks the end of her journey with Ford Motor Company in Dearborn, Michigan.

Twenty-seven years ago, Susan Skerker embarked upon a career in the auto industry that would lead her down many paths and face-to-face with many challenges, not least of which was helping to steer Ford through an ever-changing global market place.

Susan has distinguished herself as a leader in the auto industry and as such has led one of Ford's major corporate headquarters staffs. She has served as the Director of the Worldwide Government Affairs Public Policy office and worked closely with those of us in Michigan who know why Detroit is called Motor City.

On behalf of my colleagues in the Michigan Congressional delegation, I am pleased to recognize Susan and acknowledge that her efforts on behalf of the company and the industry are thought of most highly. Susan has been a true friend, one I could trust to give me good advice about everything from air bags to global warming. Her knowledge and insight have been invaluable to me in representing the 16th Congressional District in the House of Representatives.

Mr. Speaker, as Susan's family and friends gather to celebrate her many accomplishments and the closing of this chapter of her life, I wanted to share with my colleagues just how much Susan's service and friendship have meant to me.

One leg of Susan's journey has come to an end, but around the bend a new one awaits. I wish Susan every happiness and continued success in all she does.

#### TRIBUTE TO JOSEPH PARISI, SR.

**HON. BILL PASCRELL, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. PASCRELL. Mr. Speaker, I would like to call to your attention the deeds of a person I am proud to call my friend, Joseph Parisi, Sr., of Englewood Cliffs, New Jersey, who is being feted today because of his many years of service and leadership. It is only fitting that we gathered here in his honor, for he epitomizes a strong spirit of caring and generosity.

Joe Parisi is a graduate of Memorial High School in North Bergen. Joe also attended Fork Union Military Academy and studied at the Panzer College of Physical Education and Hygiene.

Joe has always been an active and involved leader in his community. He was the co-founder and chairman of the Witte Scholarship Fund, a scholarship designed to benefit the children of law enforcement officers throughout the Bergen County. Furthering his belief in civic participation, Joe is also a past trustee of the Bergen Community College Foundation, which helps provide private funding for the development of college facilities.

Joe's career took off in 1948 when he became an apprentice insurance agent with Fred Otterstedt. It was the small steps in the beginning of his career that taught him the fundamentals that would make him the leader he is today. By 1955, Joe has become the owner and CEO of the Otterstedt Insurance Agency in Englewood Cliffs.

As a leader in the business community, Joseph Parisi is the Director of the IFA Insurance Company and a past member or president of many other councils and associations. He is a past member of the Producer Council of the Maryland Casualty Insurance Group, the Jonathan Trumbull Association of the Hartford Insurance Company, the New Jersey Independent Insurance Agents Legislative Committee, the Council of Circle Agents of the Continental Insurance Companies and the Crum and Forster Insurance Company's Agency Council. Mr. Parisi is also the past President of the Hudson County Insurance Agents Association.

Joseph Parisi has continually touched the lives of the people around him. Former New Jersey Governor Jim Florio appointed him as a commissioner of the New Jersey Quincentennial Columbus Day Celebration. Joe is a past trustee of the Bergen County 200 Club. He is also the Second Vice President of the Bergen County League of Municipalities. In addition, Joe is a past president of the Bergen County Democratic Mayor's Association and served as chair of the Bergen County Democratic Organization for five years. He is also a member of the Lions Club, VFW, UNICO, Knights of Columbus and UNITI.

Known for a questioning mind and an ability to get things done, Joseph Parisi was elected Mayor of the Borough of Englewood Cliffs in 1976. For the four years prior, Joe served as a member of the Englewood Cliffs Borough Council. In addition to these roles, Joe also served as Police Commissioner while on the Council. As a former mayor in New Jersey, Mr. Speaker, I can say that I can think of no elected official who works harder or cares more about his constituents. Perhaps the greatest tribute to Joe Parisi is the unwavering faith of voters of Englewood Cliffs. They have demonstrated this by electing him time and again.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me, our colleagues, Joe's family, friends and the State of New Jersey in recognizing the outstanding and invaluable service to the community of Joseph Parisi, Sr.

#### TRIBUTE TO ROBERT A. HOOVER

#### HON. HELEN CHENOWETH-HAGE

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mrs. CHENOWETH-HAGE. Mr. Speaker, last month the security of the United States Congress' legislative web site, Thomas, was breached by individuals commonly known as computer "hackers." Although little harm was done, the cyberattack illustrates the vulnerability of our nation's computer systems.

The simple fact is, computer viruses have attacked business and government information systems, as well as personal home computers. To complicate matters even further, innocent individuals continue to be exploited

when their web-based credit card and account information are used for illegal purposes.

To combat cyberattacks, the Republican-led Congress is working diligently to explore ways to enhance computer security. Additionally, the Clinton administration has created a panel to review American cyberspace security.

In fact, one of the experts selected to serve on the panel as an advisor to President Clinton is Dr. Bob Hoover, President of the University of Idaho. Mr. Speaker, it is a true honor to congratulate Bob today on such a well-deserved accomplishment. I must say, Bob is well qualified for this position, and I know he will represent the State of Idaho, and the nation very, very well.

When Bob became the 15th president of the University of Idaho in July 1996, he brought with him 25 years of experience as teacher, researcher and administrator in higher education. His nearly four years of experience at the University of Idaho have seen a period of unparalleled accomplishment.

Perhaps his greatest successes, however, have been in the areas of collaboration with various colleges and universities and with the private sector. In northern Idaho, for instance, Bob has been instrumental in the formation of the North Idaho Center for Higher Education, a partnership between the University of Idaho, North Idaho College, Lewis Clark State College, and Idaho State University. Additionally, he is working with the College of Southern Idaho, Idaho State University and Boise State University to expand and strengthen higher education. Even further, in southwestern Idaho he has worked with the University of Idaho Foundation to purchase land in Boise for the construction of a major facility that will allow the university to expand its efforts with Boise State University and Idaho State University.

In addition to these efforts, Bob has developed and implemented the University of Idaho Strategic Plan to help guide the school in meeting new goals in teaching, research and outreach. Also, he has been instrumental in the creation of the Inland Northwest Research Alliance, which is now a partner with Bechtel B&W Idaho in the management of the Idaho National Engineering and Environmental Laboratory.

Without a doubt, Bob's efforts to develop research strength at the University of Idaho has elevated the institution to one of the leading centers of teaching and research, especially in the critical area of computer network security. In fact, in recognition of University of Idaho's expertise in this field, the National Security Agency has designated it as one of the seven national centers of excellence in information security.

Just as important, though, I'm pleased to call Bob a friend, and I look forward to working with him in the future to enhance the quality of life in Idaho. Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Bob Hoover for his long-standing commitment to the State of Idaho and the Nation.

#### TRIBUTE TO JACK P. KOSZDIN

#### HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

#### HON. BRAD SHERMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

#### HON. HENRY A. WAXMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleagues, Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. WAXMAN, and I rise today to pay tribute to Jack P. Koszdin, who will be honored on March 26, 2000, by the Democratic Party of the San Fernando Valley (DPSFV). Because of his public service and outstanding achievements he will be recognized on the occasion of DPSFV's annual Greenberg Memorial Award Luncheon.

Jack Koszdin has been a stalwart member of the Democratic Party for over thirty years. As chairman of the DPSFV Leadership Council he has proven himself to be a savvy strategist and a potent rainmaker. Because of his love of politics and representational democracy, he has worked tirelessly on behalf of numerous local, state, and federal candidates and made a real difference in many of their contests.

Like us, Jack has been a long-time active supporter of labor. As a currently practicing attorney he fights daily in the trenches for workers and other litigants on a case by case basis. Since 1995, he has been a senior partner with Koszdin, Fields & Sherry, in Van Nuys. Prior to this he was a sole practitioner for eighteen years. One of us, HOWARD BERMAN, had the privilege of practicing law with him for nearly six years. Jack is one of the most skilled and knowledgeable practitioners in the field of workers' compensation in the entire country. He is a great teacher with a huge heart and wonderful sense of humor.

He began his prodigious law career in 1956 as a senior partner with Levy, Koszdin and Woods after he graduated from the UCLA school of law. He distinguished himself in law school by being elected class president in 1954. He now counts teaching at UCLA and serving as a Law Professor at the University of West Los Angeles among his many accomplishments.

Jack has held numerous prestigious judicial positions including Judge Pro Tem for the Workers' Compensation Appeals Board, Municipal Judge Pro Tem for the San Fernando Valley and Vice Chairman of the Building Rehabilitation Appeals Board. He now participates in the State Insurance Commissioner Study of Workers' Compensation and medical benefits. In addition, Jack has been co-host of the Union Voice Radio Program and has been a legal advisor to the Valley Labor Political Education Counsel. Furthermore, he has amassed an impressive community service record which includes active membership on both the Red Cross and Cerebral Palsy Association's Board of Directors. He has assumed leadership roles in organizations such as the Men's Guild, San Fernando Valley Child Guidance Clinic where he served as President.

It is our distinct pleasure to ask our colleagues to join with us in saluting Jack Koszdin for his outstanding achievements, and to congratulate him for receiving the prestigious honors granted him by DPSFV.

TRIBUTE TO MRS. MOZELL H.W.  
ISAAC

**HON. JAMES E. CLYBURN**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. CLYBURN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mrs. Mozell H.W. Isaac, who celebrated her 70th birthday on March 4, 2000.

A life-long resident of Lee County, South Carolina, Mrs. Isaac has served her community for over fifty years in numerous ways. Through the Clemson Extension Service, the public school system and other civic, religious, and fraternal organizations, Mozell H.W. Isaac has been an advocate for Lee County and its residents. Mrs. Mozell H.W. Isaac was not only an active citizen in the community, but also a mother of four, all of whom maintained close ties with the community and its affairs. One of her sons served two terms on the County Council, another works with youth correction programs in New York, one daughter works with the Guardian Ad Litem program for the county, and another is a paralegal in Columbia. She also is the proud grandmother of six grandchildren and two great-grandchildren.

Mr. Speaker, I ask you and my colleagues to join me today in paying tribute to an individual who has been a lifelong public servant, and shown tireless dedication to her community. I wish Mrs. Mozell H.W. Isaac a Happy 70th Birthday and many more returns.

IN HONOR OF MR. JAMES BERGIN

**HON. CAROLYN B. MALONEY**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mrs. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay special tribute to James Bergin. Mr. Bergin is an honorable citizen who has worked tirelessly to improve the quality of life for countless New Yorkers.

Mr. Bergin is an invaluable community leader of the Upper East Side. While Mr. Bergin seeks no praise for himself for what he does, he deserves our gratitude for his years of service to the community. James Bergin has distributed over one million pounds of government surplus food to the poor in his community and has found apartments for veterans and seniors in difficult times.

Mr. Bergin has participated in efforts to reduce crime in his neighborhood through Community Patrol programs, on foot and in his wheelchair. He has met with gangs and succeeded in significantly reducing gang activities in his neighborhood.

Among Mr. Bergin's many contributions to the health and well-being of New York City residents, Mr. Bergin has solicited funds from local store owners to give 15 scholarships to children to continue their education. He has solicited city funds to build two playgrounds for children, one for ages two to five and one for ages six to eleven.

Mr. Bergin's efforts to solicit money for charitable causes is never ending. He has an annual holiday party for children in low income neighborhoods and makes sure they all have a present to open and an opportunity to visit

Santa and enjoy ice cream soda and Christmas candy.

Mr. Bergin recently filmed a video on the proper way to handle a 911 call that involves armed intruders in residences. Mr. Bergin was asked to sign a release for possible distribution of his video. Mr. Bergin has attended every Manhattan North Community Picnic and interacted with the Manhattan North Community. Mr. Bergin's work in the community has helped in reducing drug traffic by 30% on the Upper East Side of Manhattan.

Mr. Speaker, I salute the life and work of Mr. James Bergin and I ask my fellow Members of Congress to join me in recognizing Mr. Bergin's contributions to the New York community.

**TUNISIA INDEPENDENCE**

**HON. EARL F. HILLIARD**

OF ALABAMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. HILLIARD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Government and the people of Tunisia on the occasion of their 44th Anniversary of Independence. While Tunisia gained its independence from France just 43 years ago, the country has a rich and treasured history, dating back to ancient Carthage.

Last year I had an opportunity to visit Tunisia, where I met with top government officials. My visit was personally enriching, and allowed me to engage in meaningful discussions on how to increase cooperation and exchange between the United States and Tunisia.

The relationship between the United States and Tunisia is much older than the 44th National Day celebration may suggest. In fact, America first signed a treaty of peace and friendship with Tunisia in 1797. While our country was struggling with the Civil War, Tunisia supported the anti-slavery movement here and consistently spoke out on the significance of human dignity. During World War II, Tunisia's nationalist leaders suspended their struggle against France in order to support the Allied cause. In 1956, the United States was the first world power to recognize Tunisia's independence.

Tunisia has been one of the primary countries of interest in Northern Africa for a trade partnership, as our country recognizes the significance of greater trade with Africa. In addition to promoting economic growth and stability in the region, Tunisia has also been a valuable participant in efforts to broker lasting peace in the Middle East, the Mediterranean, and throughout the continent of Africa.

Mr. Speaker, I hope all my colleagues will join with me in congratulating Tunisia on its 44th Independence Anniversary, and honor a great friend and partner.

**ORANGE PARK HIGH SCHOOL CHOSEN AS GRAMMY SIGNATURE SCHOOL**

**HON. CLIFF STEARNS**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. STEARNS. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this opportunity to congratulate Orange

Park High School for being named as a GRAMMY Signature School by the GRAMMY Foundation. Orange Park High School happens to be in my Congressional District and it has a fine reputation as a public school of education. However, I believe the Orange Park High School's receipt of this most recent honor should be given the recognition it deserves for this great achievement. It was won through a rigorous competition that was held throughout the nation.

This honor was achieved by the school for its outstanding music education program and makes Orange Park High School one of 100 schools to be chosen to receive a certificate of recognition based on its great level of commitment to music education.

The GRAMMY Foundation began the selection process last September when it mailed out over 18,000 applications to high school across the country requesting information about the schools' music programs. These applications were then submitted to an independent data compilation firm for processing. Some schools were asked to submit additional documentation such as recordings of school concerts, sample concert programs, music curriculum and repertoire that was reviewed by an independent screening committee.

The GRAMMY Signature School advisory committee is comprised of members of the American Federation of Musicians, ASCAP, the Berklee College of Music, BMI, Crossroads School, Music Educators National Conference, Thelonius Monk Institute, University of Massachusetts at Amherst, National Association of Music Merchandisers, National Music Council, Music Performance Trust Funds, University of Southern California-Thornton School of Music, and the Cherokee Nation.

The GRAMMY Foundation is a non-profit arm of the Recording Academy and it is dedicated to advancing music and arts-based education throughout the entire country thereby ensuring access to America's rich cultural legacy. The Foundation aims to strengthen our educational system through cultural, professional and educational initiatives.

I also want to pay special tribute to Bert Creswell, Director of Bands, W. Steve Ogilvie, Association Director of Bands, Jeff Mills, Associate Director of Bands, Janet Metcalf, William S. Ward, Judy Creswell, and the Orange Park High School Raider Band Parents Association for all their assistance because without their invaluable contributions this recognition would not be possible.

Michael Greene, President/CEO of the Recording Academy said at the time: "We are thrilled to give national recognition to these schools for an outstanding job of fostering their arts programs in a difficult cultural environment." He went on to say: "We applaud them for their success in ensuring that music education does not become a cultural casualty in their district, and for implementing music education programs that make a positive difference in the lives of young adults."

I am very proud that the dedication and effort shown by the faculty and students of Orange Park High School has been rewarded by being named as a GRAMMY Signature School.

IN HONOR OF DARIEN'S 2000  
CITIZEN OF THE YEAR

## HON. JUDY BIGGERT

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mrs. BIGGERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in honor of Ed Tomei, the 2000 Citizen of the Year for Darien, Illinois.

The city of Darien is at the heart of Illinois' 13th Congressional District. It is a central crossroads for a growing region. Incorporated in 1969, it is still a young community in comparison to many of its surrounding neighbors. Over the last 31 years a great deal of hard work and dedication has been invested to make this community what it is today. The people of Darien continue to work hard to live up to the city's understated motto—"a nice place to live."

Well, I am happy to confirm that it is a nice place to live, and much of the credit for that goes to Darien's Citizen of the Year, Ed Tomei.

Ed and his family moved to Darien in 1970 shortly after the city's incorporation. Ed soon threw himself into the work of improving and representing the community he called home. He served eight years as an alderman and four years as the Fire and Police Commissioner. He became a member of the Hinsdale South High School Booster Club as well as the Hinsdale Jaycees. Ed also took part in the West Suburban Ducks Unlimited Group, a wildlife preservation organization.

Ed invested countless hours to help make the creation of the Indian Prairie Library a reality, and he has shown time and again his commitment to his community. Despite his heavy schedule, Ed continues to find the time to play Santa Claus at Christmas.

Ed Tomei put his heart and soul into Darien—and his neighbors noticed. As impressive as his civic accomplishments are, it is the words that his neighbors wrote about that show the true mark of this man.

One wrote, "he has always exhibited generosity, enthusiasm, diligence and integrity of the highest order. . . . After thirty years of progress it's easy to forget how much of the smooth running of the City in the early days was due to efforts 'above and beyond' the call of duty such as Ed provided."

Another said, "[i]ntegrity, commitment and leadership are the three traits that comprise the heart of Ed Tomei's character and what make him an outstanding citizen."

That is high praise indeed, but praise that is well deserved. It is outstanding citizens like Ed that have built the great nation that we live in today. Congratulations to Ed Tomei, Darien's 2000 Citizen of the Year. He has made Darien much more than "a nice place to live."

## THE FUEL TAX COST REDUCTION ACT

## HON. MAC COLLINS

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, with a fill-up at the gas pump draining more and more of a worker's wallet, it is time for Congress to pro-

vide relief to consumers. Congress has the power to help offset the rapidly increasing costs that are being imposed on working Americans, and we must act now.

Today I rise to introduce the Fuel Tax Cost Reduction Act—a bill to repeal a 4.3 cents per gallon tax on gasoline. This bill expands on legislation I have introduced in the past by repealing the 1993 deficit reduction fuel tax as it applies to all modes of transportation.

Mr. Speaker, this tax was included in the massive 1993 tax-hike. The purpose of this tax increase was to "reduce the deficit" during the time period when the old Congressional majority was regularly passing deficit-driven budgets that far outspent each year's tax receipts. Since that time, the Republican majority has taken action to balance the budget so that today the Federal government is running a positive cash flow. The end of annual deficits should mean the end of "deficit-reduction" taxes.

Today, world oil prices are climbing, and experts now predict that the price of gasoline will rise to at least \$2 a gallon. American families need help and this is the kind of tax relief that will help working families the most.

## SALUTE TO FEDERAL WORKERS' 1999 COMBINED FEDERAL CAM- PAIGN

## HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the generosity of our local federal workers, who participated in the 1999 Combined Federal Campaign (CFC). Federal employees in the national capital area contributed a record setting \$44.3 million in 1999, far exceeding campaign goals by 8.5 percent. Thanks to their generosity, these funds will be used to help needy people in the District of Columbia, across the nation and around the globe. As we know, the CFC provides more than money, it builds stronger, healthier lives and communities.

My sincere congratulations to Health and Human Services Secretary Donna E. Shalala, who chaired the 1999 CFC and promoted it through more than 40 visits to federal agencies. A special salute as well to the thousands of committed CFC volunteers and federal workers who made this year's campaign a resounding success.

## HONORING SISTER CATHERINE SCHNEIDER ON HER GOLDEN JU- BILEE AS A SERVANT SISTER OF THE IMMACULATE HEART OF MARY

## HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Sister Catherine Schneider who is celebrating her Golden Jubilee as a Servant Sister of the Immaculate Heart of Mary on March 17, 2000.

Sister Schneider dedicated her entire body of knowledge to the educational development

and advancement of children of all ages. She introduced the fundamentals of primary education to younger children by teaching first and second grade at St. Gabriel and St. Raphael parishes. She continued this advancement of education with her insightful and thought-provoking classroom instructions in Religion and Social Studies at St. Cecilia, Assumption, Our Lady of Fatima, and St. Laurence parishes.

Beyond the scope of her classroom responsibilities, she continued to enhance the educational prowess of her students. She selflessly did this by sacrificing her lunch periods to tutor her students who may be floundering in certain areas of their education. She implemented several student-centered programs such as the May Procession and the altar servers to ensure the stewardship and spirituality of a Catholic education.

Constantly striving to serve her devotion in all of its capacities, Sister Schneider held two secretarial positions at St. Augustine and the Holy Name of Jesus parishes. She willingly accepted the tasks that were presented to her and genuinely welcomed visitors to both schools. She freely served the infirm patients at Camilla Hall by simply listening to their needs and by offering them a kind word of inspiration. Even as a patient herself, she toiled with the switchboard as an operator. Sister Schneider continually served and educated others which had reciprocal benefits and values on her own life.

Mr. Speaker, Sister Catherine Schneider should be commended for her tireless pursuit to support and value the advancement of education and her deep devotion to duty. I congratulate and highly revere Sister Schneider upon this most glorious occasion of her Golden Jubilee, and I offer her my best wishes for continued faith and dedication in the coming years.

## WE NEED NOT SIT IDLY BY

## HON. SHERWOOD L. BOEHLERT

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. BOEHLERT. Mr. Speaker, the citizens in my district and across the Northeast have struggled this winter to pay for their heating bills because of the extraordinary recent spikes in the price of home heating oil. The price of diesel fuel rose sharply, too, delivering a severe economic blow to farmers, truckers, and businesses that depend on shipping products by truck. And since just about everything we wear, eat and use in our daily lives is shipped over land by truck, the high cost of fuel took a bite out of just about every consumer's budget. It's been a rough winter for the Northeast.

Unfortunately, it looks like we're not in the clear, yet. Recent headlines report that many experts now predict steep prices of gasoline during the peak driving season this summer, making this winter's crisis seem "like a cake-walk" by comparison.

Why are we all of a sudden experiencing such exorbitant energy prices? Are they simply the outcome of free market forces, the perpetual balancing of supply and demand? No. We are being held hostage by oil producing countries—many of whom have accepted generous assistance from the United States in the

past—who now have colluded to slash oil production, distort the market, and drive up the price of oil, which has climbed to about \$32 a barrel, up from \$12 this time last year.

But we need not sit idly by. There are actions we can take to break the resolve of these oil producing countries. A release of oil from our Strategic Petroleum Reserves would have an immediate and dramatic impact on the price of oil—and send a strong signal to oil producing countries that the U.S. will not stand for unfair and harmful trade practices.

Today I am introducing legislation expressing the sense of Congress that the President and Secretary of Energy immediately draw upon the Strategic Petroleum Reserve to supplement the oil market in the United States, bring the price of fuel back down to reasonable levels, and counter the anti-competitive practices of oil producing countries and the economic hardship they have caused Americans.

Identical legislation has been introduced in the Senate by Senators SCHUMER and COLLINS. I urge my colleagues to join me in calling upon the Administration to use the authority it already has—and indeed has used in the past—to draw upon our oil reserves and come to the assistance of businesses and consumers across the country.

#### HONORING ANNE STANBACK FOR OUTSTANDING SERVICE

#### HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to express my sincere thanks and appreciation to Anne Stanback for her service and dedication to the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund (CWEALF).

As the Executive Director of the Connecticut Women's Education and Legal Fund, Anne has led the organization in its mission to empower women and their families to achieve equal opportunities in their personal and professional lives. After a five year tenure at the helm of this organization, Anne is closing this chapter of her professional life to seek new endeavors. Her unique combination of energy and spirit has brought great success to the CWEALF.

Recently celebrating its 25th anniversary, CWEALF has long been a powerful voice for women's rights—a vital source of solidarity and inspiration for women. Under Anne's leadership, CWEALF has expanded its membership, accessibility, and programs, ensuring that the voices of women across Connecticut are heard. With Anne as Executive Director, CWEALF established a toll free referral hotline, allowing women access to legal information and referral services. They also established a \$250,000 endowment and increased membership, ensuring that their services will be available well into the future.

Anne has worked hard to ensure that the voices of women are not lost. With her guidance, CWEALF expanded its child-support program, which provides information to single mothers about child support enforcement laws. By educating child-care workers, CWEALF was able to establish community networks,

working to ensure the safety and security of our most precious resource—our children. One of the most impressive victories CWEALF has achieved under Anne's direction was blocking the establishment of a surgical center that was willing to extend reproductive healthcare services only to men. Anne and CWEALF led the opposition to this project, making a strong statement that in all facets of public and private life, women must be treated equally.

I applaud Anne's efforts to improve the lives of Connecticut women and their families—she is indeed a true role model for today's young women. It is an honor for me to join with the CWEALF organization to bid farewell to Anne and extend my best wishes to her and her family as she begins a new journey. Connecticut is truly a better place for her work.

#### SENIOR CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO WORK ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

#### HON. WALTER B. JONES

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2000*

Mr. JONES of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the H.R. 5, the Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act.

I would like to applaud the efforts of Representative SAM JOHNSON who sponsored this bill and my fellow republican colleagues. Your hard work on behalf of our nation's seniors to repeal the Social Security earnings limit should be commended.

Within North Carolina alone, 24,386 seniors were effected by the earnings limit in 1999, 2.1 percent of all seniors.

In my opinion, this tax is unfair and un-American.

Penalizing productive and hardworking citizens who choose to continue working during their golden years undermines the very fabric of this nation.

As the baby boom generation retires the number of effected seniors will only continue to rise.

Please join me in supporting this legislation to ensure that working seniors do not receive a smaller Social Security check just because they earn a paycheck.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND CON- TRIBUTIONS OF E.R. (BOB) GREGG

#### HON. JIM TURNER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. TURNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a great American, a patriot and leader, a successful businessman, a fellow Texan and a good and loyal friend, E.R. (Bob) Gregg, who after many years of dedicated service to his community, to his county and to the State of Texas, passed away on November 19, 1999.

Following in the footsteps of his grandfather, Capt. E. L. Gregg, and his parents, Eldredge and Helena Gregg, Bob Gregg worked diligently and tirelessly to help those in need, to

strengthen East Texas' business community, and to improve our education system. Following graduation from Kemper Military Institute, the University of Texas at Austin and the Southern Methodist University School of Banking, the Rusk native served in the U.S. Army during the Korean War and held an officer's position with the Texas National Guard.

Bob's work with various organizations in East Texas and his list of contributions are numerous. Bob Gregg was very active in the banking community for more than 30 years and served as vice president, president and board chairman of Allied Texas Bank of Jacksonville. He was a Mason, a Past Potentate of the Sharon Shrine Temple in Tyler, a lifetime member of the Jaycees, and a recipient of the Jaycee's "One of the Five Outstanding Young Texans" award. He was a past chairman of the Jacksonville Chamber of Commerce and was named Jacksonville's Citizen of the Year in 1992. Because of his dedication to the value of education, he served for five years on the Jacksonville Independent School District Board of Trustees and for 18 years on the State Board of Education.

Bob Gregg was a dedicated member of the Jacksonville First United Methodist Church and a member and past president of the Jacksonville Lions Club. He was a charter member and three term past president of the Jacksonville Rodeo Association Board and treasurer of the Jacksonville Unit of the Salvation Army for 45 years. He was a board member of the Rusk Industrial Foundation and a member of the Board of Trustees of Lon Morris College, which he attended earlier in his life. From his post as a member of the Commissioners Court for a decade, Bob was a compelling and effective leader for East Texans. He had been Cherokee County Commissioner for precinct 1 since 1989 and was a member of the East Texas Council of Governments Executive Committee. He was also a member of the Region 1 Water Group and a board member of both the East Texas Housing Development and Cherokee County Crimestoppers.

Bob made a positive impact on the lives of many East Texans and personified the definition of a true and loyal American who set a high standard for us all to live by. He was an outstanding example to his family and friends, and has been as asset to the many communities that he touched over the years.

Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere gratitude and the utmost respect that I rise today to ask that you join me and our colleagues in honoring the selfless service of Bob Gregg, who will be missed by so many people who were lucky enough to know him. I would also like to take this opportunity to extend my heart-felt condolences to his wife Mary, his two sons, and the entire Gregg family. Although Bob is no longer with us, his will and drive to make East Texas a better place will continue on forever.

#### IN MEMORY OF NEW YORK TIMES MANAGING EDITOR E. CLIFTON DANIEL, JR.

#### HON. IKE SKELTON

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 8, 2000*

Mr. SKELTON. Mr. Speaker, it is with deep sadness that I inform the House of the death



of my friend Clifton Daniel, of Manhattan, New York. He was 87.

Mr. Daniel was born in Zebulon, North Carolina, in 1912. During high school summers, he worked behind the soda fountain in his father's drug store and contributed stories to the local newspaper. In 1933, he graduated from the University of North Carolina and was hired by the Raleigh News & Observer as a reporter, editor and columnist. After three years, Mr. Daniel went to New York to find another journalist position. The Associated Press hired him to report from Washington, Switzerland and London during the next six years.

In 1944, Mr. Daniel joined the New York Times, beginning his 33-year career with the newspaper. He developed a reputation for graceful writing and tireless reporting while in Britain covering the Supreme Headquarters, Allied Expeditionary Force. He left London to cover the Allied ground forces in Europe until the fighting ended. After the war was over, the New York Times named him the chief foreign correspondent in the Middle East, where he reported on the birth of Israel, the rise of Arab nationalism and the collapse of a Soviet Azerbaijani puppet state in northern Iran. He then returned to London, where he covered the death of King George VI and the coronation of Queen Elizabeth II. In 1954, he served as the Times's Moscow correspondent, winning an Overseas Press Club award in 1956 for his Moscow reporting.

Mr. Daniel continued his career at the New York Times and was named managing editor in 1964, the second highest editorial position at the newspaper. During his five years in that job, he is credited with injecting renewed life into the paper, seeking improved writing and expanded coverage of arts and society. Mr. Daniel then served as an associate editor and worked in New York Times broadcasting ventures until he became the Washington bureau chief in 1973. In addition to supervising the bureau, he wrote articles that chronicled the fall of President Nixon's administration and covered the new administration of President Ford. Upon announcing his retirement in 1977, Mr. Daniel spoke highly of the variety and excitement he experienced during his distinguished career at the New York Times.

On 21 April 1956, Mr. Daniel married Margaret Truman Daniel, former President Truman's only child. They met during a dinner party in 1955 and kept their romance a secret until a month before their wedding in Independence, Missouri.

Mr. Speaker, Clifton Daniel was a true friend and great American. I know the Members of the House will join me in extending heartfelt condolences to his family: his wife of more than 43 years, Margaret; his four sons; and five grandchildren.

#### INTRODUCTION OF H.R. 3806 TO HONOR UNKNOWN CASUALTIES OF THE ATTACK ON PEARL HARBOR

**HON. PATSY T. MINK**

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 8, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to tell my colleagues about my bill H.R. 3806, which I have introduced to correct the

omission of important information on the grave markers of service members who died in the December 7, 1941 air attack on Pearl Harbor, which launched the U.S. into World War II.

Six American battleships were sunk in the attack: including the U.S.S. *Arizona*, U.S.S. *Oklahoma*, U.S.S. *Nevada*, U.S.S. *California*, and U.S.S. *West Virginia*. Six destroyers and light cruisers were sunk or damaged. On the airfields, 164 planes were destroyed, with another 128 damaged.

However, what is truly staggering to me is the sheer loss of life. Altogether, 2,403 people were killed, and 2,340 of them served in the military.

Immediately after the attack, the military worked around-the-clock to recover remains and place them in temporary graves on the island of Oahu. Tragically, 961 of the bodies were never found.

The suddenness and severity of the attack made it difficult to identify many of those casualties who were found. Sometimes only ashes were recovered. Nevertheless, the Navy graves carried wooden crosses, which provided as much information as was known about the deceased.

Later, nearly a thousand remains were moved to their final resting place at the National Memorial Cemetery of the Pacific, located at Punchbowl Crater, in Honolulu, Hawaii. In 252 graves lie the remains of 647 casualties whose identities are unknown.

Regrettably, when these unknown remains were moved to Punchbowl, the information from the wooden crosses was not inscribed on the permanent gravestone. The gravestones today carry just the word, "UNKNOWN," and a few also include "December 7, 1941" as the date of death.

Surviving comrades and family members are carrying on the fight to better preserve their memory. A leader in this effort is Raymond Emory, a retired Navy chief petty officer from my state of Hawaii. As historian for the Pearl Harbor Survivor's Association, he spent thousands of hours over 12 years to research Navy burial records to learn more about these slain service members.

Ray Emory's research has so far established that 74 of the Punchbowl Cemetery grave sites carry the remains of 124 Navy crewmen from the U.S.S. *Arizona* who died on December 7, 1941. In more than a dozen of these cases, he also found out their duty station about the ship.

Navy historians have painstakingly double-checked Mr. Emory's research and have confirmed its accuracy. This information should be placed on the grave site markers along with the word, "Unknown." Surely a sailor whom we know died on board the U.S.S. *Arizona* should have his grave site marked to show he was an unknown sailor who died in the service of his country on board to U.S.S. *Arizona*.

My bill directs the Department of Veterans Affairs to add this new information to the grave markers, so that they will be remembered for their specific service on a specific ship, on a specific day in history.

I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure, as the very least we can do to honor their supreme sacrifice for their country.

ELIAN GONZALEZ

**HON. LINCOLN DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I had the pleasure of reading these articles by James Taranto of the Wall Street Journal regarding the case of 6 year old Elian Gonzalez. I would highly recommend them to all who are interested in learning the truth about that sad case from someone who has thoroughly researched it with great insight and sensitivity and submit them for the RECORD.

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 31, 2000]

HAVANA'S HOSTAGES

(By James Taranto)

MIAMI.—No aspect of the Elian Gonzalez debate is more galling than the way Fidel Castro and his U.S. supporters have posed as champions of family unity. Havana routinely divides families by preventing children in Cuba from joining their parents in America, with nary an objection from the National Council of Churches and its allies in the fight for Elian's deportation.

There are no official statistics on the number of separated families; Cuban-American leaders here offer estimates ranging from hundreds to thousands. Many stateside family members hesitate to go public for fear of retaliation against kin in Cuba. But in three weeks, a new group called Mission Elian has documented 32 such cases. In some, children in Cuba are separated from both parents in America.

Typical is the story of Jose Cohen, the 35-year-old owner of a e-commerce company here. He had worked in Cuba's foreign-investment office, entertaining guests from abroad. Visitors told him about the outside world and whetted his appetite for freedom. So in August 1994 he, his brother Isaac and two other men crowded into a tiny two-seat motorized raft for a three-day voyage to America. Mr. Cohen left behind his wife, Lazara Brito Cohen, and his children, stepdaughter Yanelis, now 15, daughter Yamila, 11, and son Isaac, eight.

When Mr. Cohen became a U.S. resident in April 1996, he applied for and was granted U.S. visas for his family. Mrs. Cohen applied to the Cuban government for exit visas. Hearing nothing for a year, she began sending letters to Cuban officials, from Fidel Castro on down. Mr. Cohen produces a sheaf of photocopied responses on Cuban government letterhead, each informing his wife that her case is being referred to another agency. Mr. Cohen says even the evasive answers have stopped since Mr. Castro made Elian's case a case celebre.

Mrs. Cohen's experience can't be chalked up to mere bureaucratic inefficiency. When she tried to enroll Yanelis in high school in 1998, the school director told her that teens with foreign immigration visas are not permitted to study beyond junior high. Mrs. Cohen also has received menacing unsigned notes slipped under her front door. "Forget about leaving Cuba. You will never leave Cuba," one said. Declared another: "Your husband has a wife in the U.S." She once showed one of the notes to a bureaucrat at the immigration office. He read it and smiled.

Another time, a man with a government ID card appeared at Mrs. Cohen's door. "We want to help you," he said—and then tried to seduce her. She rebuffed his advances and threw him out.

"Every time we see the hope of living like every other family, it's not in the near future," Mr. Cohen says. "My wife and three children are hostage of the regime."

Bettina Rodriguez-Aguilera, a 42-year-old motivational speaker who heads Mission Elian, grew up in a family divided by Fidel Castro. She was a baby when her parents moved to the U.S. in 1959, taking her and her teen brother with them. Her father later returned to Cuba, where he wrote to her brother, who had stayed behind in America, asking him to apply for a visa waiver to speed his return to the U.S.

He mentioned in the letter that he didn't intend to join the local Communist Party cell, known as a block party. For this he was charged with "counterrevolutionary activities" and imprisoned for 14 years. Ms. Rodriguez-Aguilera didn't see him until he came back to the U.S. when she was 17. His many years as a political prisoner had broken his spirit. "Even though he was out of prison, his mind was still in prison," she says. He died in 1988.

Sometimes the Castro government boasts to families that they are being held hostage. In 1991 Maj. Orestes Lorenzo, a fighter pilot in the Cuban air force, flew his MiG-27 to the Boca Chica Naval Air Station in the Florida Keys, where he defected. He left behind his wife and two young sons. They were summoned to the office of Gen. Raul Castro, the dictator's brother, and told they would never be allowed to leave Cuba. "He has to return," Gen. Castro said. Two years later Mr. Lorenzo did just that. In a daring rescue, he flew a private plane to Cuba and landed on a road outside Havana, where his family was waiting.

Havana's practice of taking families hostage shouldn't surprise us. It is part and parcel of a totalitarian ideology enshrined in laws giving the state limitless power over the most intimate aspects of the lives of Cubans—including children. Article 5 of Cuba's Code of the Child, enacted in 1978, stipulates that anyone who comes in contact with a child must contribute to "the development of his communist personality." Article 8 calls for "efficient protection of youth against all influences contrary to their communist formation." Many Cubans here tell stories similar to that of Miami architect Ricardo Fernandez. His cousin in Cuba was summoned to meet her daughter's teacher, who demanded to know why she was sending the girl to church.

To develop the "communist personality," Havana harnesses that most potent influence: peer pressure. Mr. Cohen says Yamila, his 11-year-old daughter, was hustled with her classmates onto a bus earlier this month for an impromptu field trip. Destination: the U.S. diplomatic mission in Havana, where the children were told to join a rally demanding Elian's return. On the phone later, Mr. Cohen asked Yamila why she had gone along with the order. "I was very nervous about what the rest of the children would say," she told him.

This is the society to which the Clinton administration is trying to repatriate Elian—a society in which the government demands ideological purity even from six-year-olds. How can this be in any child's best interest?

Havana's efforts at thought control work. The image of a mental prison recurs often in conversations with Cuban immigrants here. They talk about wearing *la mascara*—the mask—to hide their true feelings. They describe a process of self-censorship in which they don't allow themselves even to think certain things, lest a counterrevolutionary sentiment slip out in an unguarded moment. Since the government controls the economy, unemployment is among the risks for those who deviate. Mr. Cohen says his brother David, once a physician at a Havana clinic, was fired for wearing a Star of David necklace. The Cuban government has also blocked David Cohen's effort to emigrate to the Dominican Republic.

It is in this context that we must evaluate Elian's father's refusal to come to the U.S. for a reunion with his son. He may well be a hostage, wearing *la mascara* and reading a government script. Sister Jeanne O'Laughlin, the nun who oversaw last week's reunion between Elian and his grandmothers, has said she sensed at the meeting that the women were being manipulated by the Cuban government. On Thursday Sister O'Laughlin issued a statement saying the meeting had changed her mind: She now believes Elian should stay.

Gen. Rafael del Pino, who was the No. 2 man in the Cuban Defense Ministry when he defected to the U.S. in 1987, knows what it's like to have a custody dispute with the Cuban government. He escaped on a small plane and brought his wife, their two children and a teenage son by his previous marriage. His former wife later appeared on Cuban television and before the National Assembly, Cuba's one-party legislature, accusing her ex-husband of kidnapping and demanding her son's return.

But in 1995 she herself escaped on a raft. Mr. del Pino says she told him her complaints had been coerced by Havana. Reached by phone at her home in North Carolina, she refuses to say, pointing out that her mother and daughter remain in Cuba.

This story leads Mr. Lorenzo, who made his own freedom flight four years after the general's to speculate: What if, like Mr. del Pino's ex-wife, Elian's father eventually decides to escape? "I wonder if we'll find that the father left the island with Elian, and they all died at sea," Mr. Lorenzo says. "Who are we going to blame for that?"

[From the Wall Street Journal, Jan. 24, 2000]

#### ELIAN'S JOURNEY

(By James Taranto)

MIAMI.—It's hard for people who have never lived under communism to comprehend the passions the Elian Gonzalez case has ignited in the Cuban-American community. Just as white people can't completely understand what it's like to feel the sting of racial prejudice, those of us lucky enough to have grown up in a free land can't fully fathom the meaning of totalitarianism. But the lawmakers, judges and bureaucrats who control Elian's fate have an obligation to try. By contemplating the lengths to which people will go to escape, they can at least glimpse a shadow of the horror.

Elian and his mother were traveling with 12 other people, two of whom survived. Nivaldo Fernandez, a chef in a five-star tourist restaurant who was separated from his wife, and Arianne Horta, a single full-time mom, had been dating for less than a year when they decided to leave Cuba together. They have kept a low profile until now because Mrs. Horta fears for her five-year-old daughter, Estefani Erera, whom she left behind in Cuba. On Friday Ms. Horta went public with her plight at a press conference here organized by Rep. Ileana Ros-Lehtinen (R., Fla.).

A few days earlier, I sat down with Mr. Fernandez and Ms. Horta to hear an account of their harrowing voyage. This is their story, as translated by Carlos Corredoira, Mr. Fernandez's best friend.

Fifteen Cubans from the coastal city of Cardenas boarded a 17-foot boat bound for America before dawn on Nov. 21. Along with three survivors and Elian's mother and stepfather, the group included Ms. Horta's young daughter and two families, the Muneros and the Rodriguezes. A Rodriguez family friend was also aboard. Aside from the two children, the youngest member of the group was 17.

The trip was troubled from the start. Their outboard motor failed almost immediately, and they spent the day on a small island just off the coast trying to repair it. As Elian and Estefani played together on the island, Elian was exuberant; he kept shouting "Me voy para la Yuma!": "I'm going to the United States!" (La Yuma is a Cuban colloquialism for the U.S.) But Estefani was scared and cried much of the time.

In the evening they returned and got the motor fixed. Ms. Horta decided Estefani was not up to the trip. She faced an agonizing choice: her daughter or her freedom. She decided to leave Estefani behind with her grandmother and send for her after she settled in the U.S. She had no idea the trip would turn into an international incident.

Just before dawn the next morning, they set off again. Two hours later, Elian saved their lives. Two Cuban patrol boats pulled up, one on each side. They tried unsuccessfully to capsize the little boat by moving from side to side, making waves. Then a sail or on the large vessel threatened to sink the boat with a water cannon.

"We have kids in here!" Mr. Fernandez shouted. "We have five or six kids!" He backed up his bluff by hoisting Elian. The sailor backed down. The patrol boats continued to follow for an hour, turning back when they reached international waters.

Things got much worse that night. The motor died. High waves tossed the boat about. Water splashed over the sides of the craft, threatening to sink it. A fuel tank tipped over. The gasoline burned a hole in one of the three large inner tubes the group had taken along in case of emergency. Seconds later, the boat capsized.

The 14 Cubans spent the night clinging to the hull. Several cruise ships passed by, but no one heard their cries for help. At dawn they tried to turn their boat over. Instead it sank. Their food was gone. They grabbed the inner tubes and held on for their lives.

As the boat sank, Ms. Horta snatched a jug of water. She told Elian's mother, Elizabeth Broton: "Only give this water to Elian." That selfless act may well have saved Elian's life.

By evening, the Cubans were dehydrated, and some started to hallucinate. The first to succumb was 17-year-old Jicary Munero, Elian's stepfather's brother. He swam away from the inner tube, shouting: "Look, there's a little island! I see lights!" His brother and one of the Rodriguez men swam after him.

Suddenly all was quiet. In the space of seconds, three men had died, and two women had become widows. Elian's stepfather's parents had also seen two sons perish. Mr. Fernandez struggled to keep their spirits up. "Let's pray together," he told them.

Hunger and hallucination killed more that night. The Rodriguezes' friend, a 25-year-old woman named Lirka, was starving. She swam away, shouting, "I want black beans and rice!" Mr. Fernandez tried to save her. She drowned just as he reached her. When he returned to the inner tube, it was empty. Elian's stepfather's parents had drowned, too. Later the widow Rodriguez started swimming and shouting. "There's light over there!" Her brother-in-law tried to save her. Both drowned quickly.

The group had dwindled to six: Mr. Fernandez, Ms. Horta, Elian, his mother, and the parents of the two dead Rodriguez men. Mr. Fernandez and Ms. Horta, exhausted, fell asleep clinging to their inner tube. They awoke to find that the elder Rodriguezes had drowned overnight.

All the struggle and death had worn Elian's mother down. "I want to die," she said. "All I want is for my son to live. If there's one here who has to die, it's me, not



him." Elian was begging for milk; his mother had given him her sweater to protect him from the chilly waters.

Mr. Fernandez and Ms. Horta dozed off again. Hours later they were awakened by sharks nipping at their legs. (Both showed me their scars: Mr. Fernandez has several dozen small tooth marks on his ankles; Ms. Horta has three larger wounds on her thighs.)

They were alone. The rope that held the inner tubes together had come loose as they slept. Mr. Fernandez, who had tried to lift the others' spirits, found himself losing hope. "I'm tired," he told Ms. Horta. "I can't make it. I want to die."

As night fell, the couple saw lights in the distance. They tried swimming toward shore, but the current was against them. Again they slept.

They awoke at dawn on Thanksgiving Day. Closer to shore, they began swimming toward land. They arrived in Key Biscayne, Fla., yacht harbor. They had made it.

Exhausted and dehydrated, they collapsed. Later Mr. Fernandez, lying in bed in a Miami hospital, told police there might be other survivors. A cop showed him a photo: "Did this little kid come with you?"

"Yes, Is he alive?" Elian had made it too.

After leaving the hospital, Mr. Fernandez and Ms. Horta went straight to the immigration office and began the process of becoming Americans. Their new lives are a classic immigrant struggle. Ms. Horta is going to school to learn English. Mr. Fernandez, the erstwhile five-star chef, is looking for work; last week he had an interview for a job washing cars at an auto dealership.

Nivado Fernandez is full of faith in his new country. "I was born on July 3, 1967," he says, "I was born again on Nov. 25, 1999, because that's when I came to the land of liberty." Would he do it again if he knew how harrowing the journey would be? "Yes. Even if I died in the middle of the sea, I would have died with dignity, trying to come to this country."

Arianne Horta longs to be reunited with Estefani, her five-year-old daughter. The Immigration and Naturalization Service, the selfsame agency that is demanding Elian's immediate deportation in the name of family reunification, tells Horta it can't do anything about her little girl until Ms. Horta attains residency status, which won't happen until next year. In contrast to Elian's father, last seen ranting on ABC's "Nightline" about his desire to assassinate U.S. politicians, Ms. Horta maintains a quiet dignity. "I cry a lot," she says.

This week Congress will take up legislation to declare Elian Gonzalez a U.S. citizen. It should extend the same privilege to Estefani Erera. There's no guarantee that Fidel Castro would allow her to emigrate, but such an action would remove the obstacle on this side of the Florida Straits. Making Estefani an American would be a fitting tribute to her mother's heroism—and to the memories of the 11 who didn't make it.

#### HONORING THE JEWISH HOME FOR THE AGED ON ITS 85TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor an organization that has been an invaluable asset to the New Haven, Connecticut community since

its inception 85 years ago—the Jewish Home for the Aged.

In October, the Jewish Home for the Aged celebrated 85 years of care and service to the elderly of our community. Founded by the Sisters of Zion, what began as a small sanctuary for poor, elderly Jewish men and women without families, has grown into a distinguished and highly respected nursing care facility. Over the years, the home has worked diligently to address the ever-changing needs of our aging population. Throughout its history, quality care has been their prime goal, constantly expanding both in space and services.

Through personal appeals and their first Charity Ball, in 1916 the Sisters of Zion were able to raise the funds necessary to purchase a wood house at 169 Davenport Avenue in New Haven, giving the Jewish Home for the Aged its first residence. In its formative years, the Jewish Home for the Aged was run completely by women, an unique undertaking given the times. Every succession of Board members has had to grapple with the financial realities of caring for the elderly. As a non-profit, the Home has had extraordinary success through a myriad of fund-raising efforts, a strong tradition that continues today. Throughout its rich history, the remarkable success of the Jewish Home for the Aged has been due to the strong leadership and dedication of the staff and administration—our sincere thanks to them for all of their extraordinary efforts.

This past year, the Home suffered an enormous loss with the unexpected passing of its Executive Director, and my dear friend, Rick Wallace. Rick was an incredible leader, committed to overcoming the massive changes and rising costs in health care that have impeded our seniors from accessing quality care. He held a strong belief that in order to meet these new challenges, Jewish organizations throughout the community would have to work together to provide their residents with a continuum of care. Dedicated to the Home's future success, Rick ensured that the Home was a founding member of the Jewish Care Network. Rick dedicated his career to the mission of the Home and it is my hope that they will carry on his strength and vision as they move ahead into the future.

The Jewish Home for the Aged has had an invaluable impact on our community since its founding. I am indeed proud to stand today to honor them as they celebrate their 85th anniversary and to extend my best wishes for continued success.

#### NORTHERN IRELAND IN CRISIS AS SAINT PATRICK'S DAY APPROACHES

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, next week is Saint Patrick's Day, when so many Irish and their many friends around the globe celebrate the great patron saint's day of honor. This year's Saint Patrick's day was to have held out great hope for lasting peace and justice in the long troubled north of Ireland. The Irish and peace loving people all over the world were joyous last November 29th when the

new Northern Ireland power sharing executive was finally formed and the British government devolved most of home rule to Belfast. Along with the Northern Ireland assembly, north/south and east/west bodies, the future of all of the island of Ireland was bright for peaceful democratic change in the unsatisfactory status quo that has long been the north of Ireland. The Good Friday accord supported by the people of both the north and south of Ireland was finally being implemented and change was to come through democratic means and new power sharing institutions.

It was a step backwards in the search for lasting peace and justice in the north of Ireland when the British Government on February 11, 2000 suspended the power sharing institutions that had been the best chance to produce overall change in the north, including decommissioning.

Regrettably, the Irish peace process since February 11, 2000 is once again in crisis. The most recent announcement that the IRA is withdrawing from their efforts with the arms decommissioning body is another body blow to a fragile and tenuous future in the north of Ireland.

Even after positive steps were being made to resolve the arms issue—the IRA had committed to put them beyond use—the old unionist veto by the Ulster Unionist Party (UUP) forced the suspension of power sharing under the threat of resignation by the UUPs First Minister, David Trimble from the new local government. Terms of the Good Friday Accord set out simultaneous time frames for removal of the guns on both sides from Irish politics.

Those who have unilaterally changed its terms and exercised a veto over its operation must explain their intransigence, and be held accountable for failing to carry out the terms of the Good Friday peace accord.

In order to create the climate for arms decommissioning as envisioned by the terms of the Good Friday Accord, power-sharing institutions must be reestablished, sooner rather than later.

The accord itself set a mid-May 2000 time frame for good faith efforts by all sides at getting all of arms decommission in the North Ireland. Regrettably, the institutions that should have been in place for the last 18 months has only been up and running for just the last 10 weeks. Now they have been suspended.

We soon will have the marching season again in the north of Ireland. We cannot let the political vacuum in the north go on indefinitely. We need the political institutions up and running so change can come peacefully through democratic means. Only then can we expect the political process that the Good Friday accord set in motion can help make the guns on both sides in the north, both irrelevant, and unnecessary.

The parties need to get back to the table and fully implement the Good Friday Accord. As Senator George Mitchell has wisely said, history might forgive the failure to reach an agreement in the long conflict over Northern Ireland, but will never forgive the failure to implement one that has been agreed upon by both governments and all of the parties in the long troubled region.

Let us, on this St. Patrick's Day, hope and pray for a united, peaceful Ireland.

HONORING THE TORRANCE  
MEMORIAL MEDICAL CENTER

**HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the Torrance Memorial Medical Center, and important facility within my district. The largest community hospital in the area, Torrance Memorial is currently celebrating its 75th anniversary.

For 75 years, the Torrance Memorial Medical Center has played an integral role in the health and welfare of the South Bay and Peninsula communities. The medical center has come a long way since it first opened its doors in 1925. More babies were delivered and more patients were admitted during the last quarter of 1999 than during its first ten years in operation.

With 380 beds, the Torrance facility is widely recognized as one of the most technologically advanced private hospitals in the regions. A leader in the health care industry, Torrance Memorial specializes in acute care, particularly in the areas of cardiology, cancer treatment, burn treatment, and neonatal care. The center has provided first rate medical care to tens of thousands of local residents throughout the years.

Torrance Memorial is an active member of the community. It is a pioneer in prevention, education, and community services providing classes, lectures, daycare, and physician referrals to help the residents of the South Bay and surrounding communities play a greater role in their own health.

I commend the staff and volunteers of the Torrance Memorial Medical Center for providing such outstanding care, and I congratulate them on this milestone. The South Bay is grateful for your services.

TRIBUTE TO PATRICIA CAMPBELL  
GLENN

**HON. DONALD M. PAYNE**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I would like to ask my colleagues here in the House of Representatives to join me in honoring a woman of remarkable accomplishments, Patricia Campbell Glenn, who has earned a reputation as an outstanding public servant.

As the Regional Director of the United States Department of Justice, Community Relations Service in Region II consisting of New York, New Jersey, the U.S. Virgin Islands and Puerto Rico, her agency is responsible for the mediation of all community-based racial and ethnic disputes. Ms. Glenn has the distinction of being the only female director in the country. During her tenure at the Department, she was deputized as a special U.S. Marshall in Conway County, Arkansas; she mediated systemic issues cases in federal correctional facilities, and she mediated disputes between Native Americans and the federal government. In 1996, she was selected to direct the National Arson Task Force in Washington, D.C. for the Community Relations Service. The

Task Force had the direct responsibility for the resolution of all disputes related to the arson of churches. Ms. Glenn has conducted Hate Crime training with the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center out of Glynco, Georgia since 1992, the U.S. Trustees, Bankruptcy Courts, the National Organization of Black Law Enforcement Executives, the Federal Bureau of Investigation and the U.S. Secret Service, Uniform Division.

Her impressive achievements include being selected as one of the fifty outstanding females in the Justice system; becoming the first female to receive the Outstanding Regional Director Award; being listed in Who's Who in American Women and in the Midwest; and being selected in 1998 as National Mother of the Year by the Ashley Steward Retail Association. In addition, she was responsible for the first nationwide agreement with the Federal Emergency Management Agency to provide assistance when problems between races and cultures arose during national disasters; mediation of community concern regarding police practices in Paterson, New Brunswick, Montclair and Newark, New Jersey; mediation between African American and Jewish faculty at Kean University; and many other achievements. She received a B.S. in English Education from Ohio State University and an M.A. in Speech Communication from Montclair State University. She has lectured at Yale University, conducted classes at Passaic Community College, taught Conflict Resolution in Moscow and established conflict resolution programs in St. Petersburg and Komi, Russia. Currently, she is an adjunct instructor at Montclair State University.

Mr. Speaker, I know my colleagues join me in paying tribute to a remarkable public servant, Patricia Campbell Glenn, for her highly successful work and in wishing her all the best in her future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GRACE F. NAPOLITANO**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mrs. NAPOLITANO. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 8, 2000, I was unavoidably late in returning from California. If I had been here to vote, I would have voted "yea" for all of the following:

H.R. 1827—Government Waste Corrections Act; H.R. 2952—To redesignate the Facility of the U.S. Postal Service in Greenville, South Carolina as the Keith D. Oglesby Station; H.R. 3018—To designate the U.S. Postal Office in Charleston, South Carolina as the Marybelle H. Howe Post Office; S. Con. Res. 91—Congratulating the Republic of Lithuania on the tenth anniversary of the reestablishment of its independence from the rule of the former Soviet Union; and H.J. Res. 86—Recognizing the 50th anniversary of the Korean War and the service by members of the Armed Forces.

HONORING NANNIE PARKS ROGERS AS THE 1999 NCNW APPRECIATION AWARD RECIPIENT

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to join the New Haven National Council of Negro Women in posthumously honoring my good friend, Nannie Parks Rogers, with their annual appreciation award.

Each year the NCNW of New Haven recognizes outstanding men, women, and youngsters for their efforts on behalf of our community. These annual awards honor individuals who have reached out to the community and dedicated themselves to the continued improvement and enhancement of Greater New Haven.

Nan Rogers was an extraordinary figure who enriched the lives of everyone she touched. Spending more than forty years in the field of education, Nan worked closely with people as both an educator and counselor. Her dedication and strong belief in the vital importance of education led her through an unparalleled career. Nan valued the opportunities her career offered—from young children beginning their formal education, to teens as they made their choices about life, and finally to adults returning to college and restructuring their lives.

A longtime resident of the Newhallville neighborhood in New Haven, Nan was an active member in many organizations throughout the city. Among the myriad of activities she was involved in were her memberships in St. Andrew's Episcopal Church, the National Council of Negro Women, the Mary B. Ashford Adult Services Center, the NAACP, the Business and Professional Women's Club, and the Inner City Day Care Council, Inc. Nan is also credited as a founder of the African American Women's Agenda, a community based group whose goal is to address the issues affecting African American women and to ensure that their voices are heard, both locally and nationally. Nan was a true advocate for her community, striving to enhance the quality of life for our children and families.

Sadly, Nan passed away in March of this year at the age of 70. I am fortunate enough to have known Nan and blessed to have called her my friend. I would like to extend my sincere sympathies to her daughter, Robin, grandchildren, Marcus and Sarah, family, and friends. Nan will certainly be missed but her contributions will not be forgotten. I am truly honored to stand today to pay tribute to Nannie Parks Rogers as the recipient of the 1999 NCNW Appreciation Award Recipient.

SENIOR CITIZENS FREEDOM TO  
WORK ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

**HON. BENJAMIN A. GILMAN**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 1, 2000*

Mr. GILMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to strongly support H.R. 5, The Senior Citizens

Freedom to Work Act of 2000. I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this worthwhile piece of legislation.

This objective of this bill is simple and straightforward: it would totally remove the future earnings limit for working seniors who receive Social Security.

For too many years, those senior citizens, aged 65–69, who chose to continue to work, have had their Social Security benefits deducted by one dollar for every three dollars earned once their earnings went over the limit. For many years, this limit was \$12,500 annually.

The 104th Congress made a much needed change in 1997, by raising the limit to \$30,000 by 2002.

I have long believed that more needs to be done on this issue. Ever since coming to Washington, in the 93rd Congress, I have introduced legislation to either raise the earnings limit, or eliminate it, altogether. I believe that repeal of this regulation is one of the most effective things we in Congress can do to show our seniors that we recognize the value of their contributions to both our Nation's economy and to the character of our individual communities.

The Social Security earnings limit is a relic from the Great Depression era, when concern over mass unemployment led many to believe that the imposition of the limit would prevent retired individuals from competing with younger workers for scarce jobs. While the limit's utility in the 1930s is debatable, most everyone agrees with the argument that it has no place in today's work environment.

The earnings limit only serves to discourage seniors from working and diminishes their potential impact on society. It is a condescending regulation that conveys the message that seniors have nothing to contribute and are better off not serving in the work force. In doing this, it both reduces the standard of living for working seniors, as well as rob the country of the valuable experience and workplace skills of those senior citizens who, because of the earnings limit, forego returning to the workplace.

Thanks to revolutionary advances in the field of medicine, Americans are living longer than ever before in our Nation's history. Consequently, senior citizens are the fastest growing component of our country's population.

Moreover, the U.S. economy is currently running at very close to full employment. While the unemployment rate is at a historic low, demand for finished goods shows no signs of abating. Employers recognize this, and are searching for ways to address this challenge. Many have turned to senior citizens, who are a vast, largely untapped, labor resource. Consequently, recruitment of senior citizens by private industry is on the rise, and shows more signs of increasing in the future.

Given this, it simply makes no sense to maintain an arbitrary earnings limit that penalizes those individuals of retirement age who wish to continue being productive members of the work force. Nobody who wishes to enjoy retirement should be forced to work, however, those who do work should not be unfairly penalized for doing so.

Our senior citizens have their own unique and invaluable contributions to make to our society as a whole. I have long encouraged my colleagues in Congress to recognize and reward this initiative, rather than penalize it by clinging to outmoded regulatory relics.

For far too long, the poor budgetary environment made repeal of this limit a practical impossibility. Today's environment of growing surpluses has knocked away this last obstacle to reform. We need to seize this opportunity to provide simple, but effective reform for our working seniors.

Moreover, while important, the repeal of this limit should only be the first step towards improving the economic welfare of our senior citizens. Congress still needs to repeal the earnings limit for those seniors aged 62–64, and this debate should be the prelude to a full review of the taxes levied on our senior citizens, with the goal of repealing all taxes on Social Security benefits, which in effect are a discriminatory form of double taxation.

I am pleased to see that the President has finally stated his public support for the elimination of the earnings limit, and I commend my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee for their diligence and attention to this issue in their recent favorable consideration of this bill.

I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this timely, and important legislation.

#### HONORING THE SOUTH BAY WOMEN OF THE YEAR

**HON. STEVEN T. KUYKENDALL**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. KUYKENDALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to some exceptional women from my district being honored tomorrow as the South Bay Women of the Year. The honorees are Mrs. Katharine Ward Clemmer, the Honorable Katy Geissert, Ms. Jill Gomes, Mrs. Renee Henry, Mrs. Pamela Kenoyer, Mrs. Elaine Klessig, Mrs. Mary Jane Schoenheider, and Mrs. Darla Voorhees.

This honor is given to several remarkable women each year by the Switzer Center School and Clinical Services located in the City of Torrance, which serves children with learning, emotional, or social challenges. The 2000 South Bay Women of the Year Awards are presented to women who are making a difference in the lives of others. These individuals are being recognized for selflessly giving their time and efforts to improve the community. They are making an impact in the lives of others, not because they have to, but because they want to.

I thank the Switzer Center for recognizing these women and their significant accomplishments. I commend these eight women for their important contributions to the South Bay community. They have touched the lives of many. I congratulate them on receiving this award.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUBEN HINOJOSA**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. HINOJOSA. Mr. Speaker, because of a transit problem, I unfortunately missed rollcall votes 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33. Had I been present I would have voted as follows:

Rollcall No. 29, Government Waste Corrections Act (H.R. 1827)—“yea”; rollcall No. 30,

To Redesignate the Facility of the U.S. Postal Service in Greenville, SC, as the Keith D. Oglesby Station (H.R. 2952)—“yea”; rollcall No. 31, To Designate the U.S. Postal Office Located at 557 East Bay Street in Charleston, SC, as the Maybelle H. Howe Post Office (H.R. 3018)—“yea”; rollcall No. 32, Congratulating Lithuania on the 10th Anniversary of its Independence, S. Con. Res. 91—“yea”; rollcall No. 33, Recognizing the 50th Anniversary of the Korean War, H. J. Res. 86—“yea.”

#### CONGRATULATING THE CHURCH OF THE ANNUNCIATION

**HON. MARGE ROUKEMA**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mrs. ROUKEMA. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate the Church of the Annunciation in Paramus, New Jersey, on the dedication of its restored and renovated church building. This newly completed work not only provides more space for worship and community activity, but reflects the measure of faith it brings to the community and the growth of the church congregation.

The \$2.2 million project will provide more than 8,000 square feet, reconfigured to meet the Second Vatican Council's direction for greater participation of the congregation in services. Modern lighting and sound systems have been added while maintaining the church's classic gothic design. Meeting space for parish organizations and community services has been expanded and the entire complex has been adopted for the physically challenged.

A church is, of course, far more than bricks and mortar. It is a place of prayer, worship and solace for all. As Pastor Michael Sheehan has said, the renovation project is a proclamation of the congregation's faith in the future that the Lord will continue to be with His people in Paramus.

A key element of the spirit surrounding the Church of the Annunciation has been the tradition of Christian charity. Members of this compassionate congregation have worked selflessly to help the less fortunate in the community, providing aid and assistance whenever and wherever it has been needed. They have truly embraced the Gospel according to St. Matthew: “I was hungry and you gave me meat. I was thirsty and you gave me drink. I was a stranger and you took me in. I was naked and you clothed me. I was sick and you visited me. I was in prison and you came unto me.”

The Church of the Annunciation traces its history to 1951, when Newark Archbishop Thomas J. Walsh ordered the construction of a new church to accommodate the rapidly growing Catholic population in Bergen County. Archbishop Walsh chose the site of the former House of Divine Providence, a Catholic charity hospital for the terminally ill that had remained vacant since it was gutted by fire in 1925. The Rev. William J. Buckley was assigned as the first pastor and held the first Mass in the Midland Avenue firehouse on September 14, 1952. The new church was dedicated the following March on the day before Palm Sunday. The first year of full operation saw 78 baptisms, four weddings and three funerals.

Rapid growth followed over the next several years, including construction of a rectory and the establishment of a church school for kindergarten–eighth grade. While the school closed in 1983 due to falling enrollment, overall growth has continued and the church today is the spiritual home of more than 1,200 families.

The Church of the Annunciation has been served by many distinguished clergy, but some have a special place in the memory of parishioners. Archbishop Walsh entrusted the Rev. William J. Buckley, an experienced priest of 29 years, with the important job of founding the church, overseeing the establishment of the new parish and serving as the first pastor. A practical man as well as a spiritual leader, the Rev. Buckley's first purchase was a 4-by-7-inch leather-bound accounts book in which to record the church's finances. In 1967, the Vietnam War touched the lives of the parish all too closely when the Rev. Charles Watters was killed in action. Pastor from 1956 to 1963, Father Watters was serving as an Army chaplain with the 173rd Airborne Brigade when his unit engaged a heavily armed enemy battalion. During the battle, Father Watters rushed to the front lines to aid wounded soldiers and give last rites to the dying. He repeatedly ran through intense enemy fire to rescue the wounded or give aid, and was eventually struck and killed. Father Watters received the Congressional Medal of Honor for his heroism. The traditions and standards set by Father Buckley and Father Watters are ably carried on today by Father Sheehan.

The Church of the Annunciation has been a center of community life for generations, a gathering place for weddings, funerals and other passages of life not just for today's generation but their parents and grandparents as well. It continues to play a major role in the lives of its congregation and will do so for many years to come. In these times of moral upheaval and increasing violence among our youth—as evidenced by tragic shootings in schools across the nation—we especially value the dedication and commitment of our churches to the guidance of our young people. This is in the best tradition of building upon the strong foundations of our American democracy.

As the Church approaches the 50-year mark, the promise of its future seems bright. The faithfulness of its clergy, the devotion of its congregation and its dedication to Christian values are evidence of its enduring place in the community.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Church of the Annunciation on nearly half a century of serving the spiritual needs of its congregation, and wishing this church and its parishioners the best for the future. God bless and Godspeed.

IN MEMORY OF CHARLES SCHULZ

**HON. BOB GOODLATTE**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. GOODLATTE. Mr. Speaker, it is a privilege and an honor to stand before you today and pay tribute to the celebrated cartoonist Charles Schulz. His legacy will be remem-

bered around the world for years to come. For 50 years, Mr. Schulz gave us the lovable characters that we could identify with, the Peanuts Gang.

I would also like to inform my colleagues of Schulz's generous contributions to the National D-Day Memorial Foundation in Bedford, Virginia. The Foundation is a group of veterans and volunteers designated by the U.S. Congress to build and maintain a memorial to Allied Forces who invaded the Normandy coast of France on June 6, 1944. The Foundation is charged with designing, building and operating a national memorial that will provide a place of reverence and solemnity honoring those who sacrificed so much on D-Day. The Foundation is committed to educating citizens of the world, especially young people, about the scope of the invasion; the role of individual American service men and women; the sacrifices made by the families and communities on the home front; and the critical importance and significance of D-Day.

Since its creation, Charles Schulz provided great support to the Foundation and the advancement of its goals. All donations in Charles Schulz's name should be directed, per Mr. Schultz's request, to The Campaign to Build The National D-Day Memorial and Education Center.

Again, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognition of this man's support for such a worthy cause.

#### COMMUNIST CHINA'S THREAT AGAINST TAIWAN

**HON. DANA ROHRABACHER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. ROHRABACHER. Mr. Speaker, communist China recently issued a so-called "white paper" threatening to attack the republic of China on Taiwan, almost immediately after a high level Clinton Administration delegation led by Strobe Talbott visited Beijing. Reportedly, Talbott told the Chinese dictators that President Clinton wanted "a constructive strategic partnership." Through the militant "white paper" Beijing stated it would militarily conquer Taiwan if Taiwan's democratically elected leaders refused to meet Beijing's timetable for reunification talks. This is a new condition meant to frighten voters in Taiwan prior to Taiwan's presidential election on March 18.

This latest bluster by Beijing is comparable to the 1996 Chinese "missile test" in the Taiwan Strait during Taiwan's first democratic Presidential election. Beijing failed to deter Taiwanese voters from electing President Lee Teng-hui. On March 18, the first time in China's 5,000 year history, Taiwanese voters will democratically choose a new president to replace a democratically elected leader.

Communist China's threats against Taiwan are deplorable. Taiwan is a vibrant democracy and its people should have every right to elect their new leader without any sort of outside interference. Beijing should recognize the fact that the Chinese people now have two separate governments—one democratic and the other a militant dictatorship. Reunification talks between Beijing and Taipei should be conducted as between two equal entities, allowing both sides to discuss the creation of a new

democratic China through the free will of all Chinese people.

During this sensitive period, we should make clear to Beijing that the United States Government has zero tolerance for Beijing's bullying gestures toward the brave people of Taiwan. There current actions are sound reason to deny any trade agreements, such as the so called Permanent Normal Trade Relations proposal.

#### ORGAN DONATION AND TRANSPLANTATION IMPROVEMENTS ACT

**HON. BOBBY L. RUSH**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. RUSH. Mr. Speaker, today, I am pleased to join with my colleague, RAY LAHOOD, in introducing the Organ Donation and Transplantation Improvements Act of 2000, a bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to improve the national system of organ allocation and transplantation.

Under the provisions of the National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA), the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services has the responsibility for establishing and administering a national organ allocation program. In April of 1998, the Department published a regulation which directs the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) to address a number of inefficiencies and inequities in the existing organ allocation program. UNOS, the United Network for Organ Sharing, and a number of transplant centers, strongly objected to the regulation. The groups in opposition sought and secured a rider to the Omnibus Appropriations enacted in 1998 which blocked implementation of the Secretary's proposed regulation.

In October, 1998, the Congress suspended implementation of the Final Rule for one year to allow further study of its potential impact. During that time, Congress asked the Institute of Medicine (IOM) to review current Organ Procurement Transplantation Network (OPTN) policies and the potential impact of the Final Rule. The IOM study was completed in July of last year and provided overwhelming evidence in favor of the new regulations. Nevertheless, at the end of the last session of Congress, a second moratorium was added onto the Work Incentives Improvement Act, that provided for an additional 90-day delay of implementation of the Final Rule.

In the midst of this debate, last October, the House Commerce Committee debated and reported legislation, H.R. 2418, that would divest the Department of Health and Human Services of any authority to require anything of the OPTN. Functions of a scientific, clinical or medical nature would be in the sole discretion of the OPTN. All administrative and procedural functions would require mutual agreement of the Secretary and the Network.

Opponents of H.R. 2418, including the Governor of the great state of Illinois, believe that the legislation would create an unregulated monopoly of organ allocations, and allow UNOS to run the organ allocation program unfettered. The legislation also favors small states with small centers at the expense of patients waiting for transplants at larger centers.

The state of Illinois represents 9 percent of the population and receives only 4 percent of the transplants.

The legislation which Mr. LAHOOD and I are introducing today takes elements from a variety of different sources and combines them into a comprehensive bill aimed at improving the performance of the nation's organ donation and transplant system. The bill includes elements from:

The existing National Organ Transplant Act (NOTA);

H.R. 2418, the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) Amendments of 1999;

The OPTN regulation promulgated by the Department of Health and Human Services and revised in 1999; and

Recommendations from the Institute of Medicine in its 1999 report: Organ Procurement and Transplantation.

The goal of the Donation and Transplantation Act is to increase organ donation rates and to foster a fair and effective system for improving the nation's organ transplantation system.

The legislation that we are introducing supports a number of programs aimed at increasing organ donation by establishing a grant program to assist organ procurement organizations (OPO) and other non-profit organizations in developing and expanding programs aimed at increasing organ donation rates; creating a Congressional Donor Medal to be awarded to living organ donors or to organ donor families; establishing a system of accountability and places the responsibility for increasing organ donation with the Department of Health and Human Services (HHS must report its progress to Congress); and establishes a system of support for state programs to increase organ donation.

Congress created the Organ Procurement and Transplantation Network (OPTN) in 1984 to create a fair and effective system for matching organ donors with patients in need of organ transplants. The Act maintains the high medical standards established by Congress in 1984; further defines the organ allocation standards established by Congress in 1984 in order to ensure a fair and equitable system of allocation based upon the recent recommendations of the Institute of Medicine; establishes new standards of financial accountability in the operation of the OPTN; and requires the Department of Health and Human Services to work with the OPTN contractor to monitor and enforce the policies of the OPTN.

The Act further removes the burden for organ allocation from the Organ Procurement Organizations (OPOs) and establishes a process, based upon sound medical criteria, for the certification and recertification of OPOs. The legislation further provides an opportunity for OPOs that fail to meet standards to implement a corrective plan of action.

Our legislation implements the recommendations of the Institute of Medicine through the creation of an advisory board to review OPTN policies and ensure the best performance of the OPTN in the effective and equitable procurement and allocation of donated organs. The legislation also includes a provision to reimburse individuals who donate organs for the non-medical travel expenses and maintains the current standard of enduring that patients have the best data and information about the nation's organ transplant

system. Finally, Mr. Speaker, as with the current law, our legislation provides that the OPTN will continue to be operated by a private non-profit organization, with rules that will be subject to review by the Secretary of Health and Human Services.

Mr. Speaker, the legislation that Congressman LAHOOD and I have introduced today is a sound compromise worthy of consideration. I hope that our colleagues will join us in support of this legislation.

HONORING ALVIS BROOKER, ALDERMAN, 23RD WARD, NEW HAVEN, CONNECTICUT

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mrs. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor my good friend, the late Honorable Alvis Brooker, Alderman for the 23rd Ward of New Haven, Connecticut. On Monday, November 15, Alvis succumbed to the same rare liver disease that took the life of the great Walter Payton.

Alvis was an incredible force in the Dwight West River section of New Haven, representing more than 5000 city residents. He was a member of the West River Neighborhood Association as well as the Dwight Central Management Team. Both of these groups are neighborhood organizations whose mission is to improve and enhance the neighborhood and quality of life for its residents. He worked diligently to address the needs of those he represented, especially the various security, housing, and revitalization issues they faced. He was instrumental in the George Street revitalization project, which involved a complete rehabilitation of the New Horizon Apartments, an elderly affordable housing complex. He also played an integral role in securing the funding for the development of Shaws Supermarket at Dwight Place which has brought about an economic renaissance in the area. Alvis always brought the needs of his constituents to City Hall—ensuring that their voices were heard.

During his three term tenure on the Board of Aldermen Board, he chaired the Public Safety and Substance Abuse Committee as well as the Youth and Youth Services Committee. As a case manager with the New Haven Family Alliance, he worked with primarily high-risk adolescents with drug and alcohol problems. His career experiences brought an uncommon insight to these committees and he was able to communicate the specific issues which our young people face with a unique authority. Prior to his work at the New Haven Family Alliance, Alvis pursued a counseling career within the Connecticut Department of Corrections, counseling inmates with substance abuse problems and lectured on the Criminal Justice System at public schools and universities across Connecticut. He also started and facilitated a program entitled "Youth Reaching Out to Youth", a program that designed an environment where teens could counsel each other on the difficult issues which they faced each day.

In only 33 years of life, Alvis Brooker left an invaluable mark on our community. Behind the myriad of Aldermanic Citations and Mayoral

Proclamations, there was a man who truly cared about his community. He was a leader in every sense of the word and will always be remembered for his unwavering commitment and tireless work on behalf of our children and families. He has certainly been an inspiration to all of us in the New Haven community and it was indeed a privilege to work with him and I am proud to have called him my friend.

It is with a heavy heart that I rise today to join his mother, Sallie, family, friends, colleagues, and the community he loved well to bid a fond farewell to my dear friend, Alvis Brooker. His strength and good heart will live on.

UPHOLDING DEMOCRACY IN TAIWAN

HON. MAURICE D. HINCHEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. HINCHEY. Mr. Speaker, in the spring of 1996, the People's Republic of China (PRC) conducted two guided missile tests north of Taiwan, in an effort to intimidate the voting populous. Fortunately, the people in Taiwan recognized this act of intimidation by the PRC and overwhelmingly elected Lee Teng-hui as their first freely elected president in China's 5,000-year history.

This year, on the eve of Taiwan's second presidential election, the People's Republic of China has once again renewed its militaristic intimidation tactics against Taiwan. On at least two occasions, Beijing leaders had made it abundantly clear that it could invade Taiwan if Taiwan refused to engage in reunification talks. There is widespread concern throughout Taiwan, South Asia, and here in the United States that the PRC will continue its efforts to intimidate Taiwan. These attempts to destabilize Taiwan's healthy policy and economy would eventually lead to the surrender of Taiwan to mainland China.

I trust the voters in Taiwan will once again choose one of the three leading candidates as their president on March 18. It is vitally important that Taiwan's security not be compromised in any way. In the meantime, the goal of both governments should be increased dialog and a cooling of inflammatory rhetoric. Fear and instability will not serve the people of either Taiwan or the PRC, and it certainly will not serve the interest of the United States.

INTRODUCTION OF THE SOCIAL SECURITY BENEFITS PROTECTION ACT OF 2000

HON. PATSY T. MINK

OF HAWAII

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mrs. MINK of Hawaii. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a bill that is very important to me, to my constituents in Hawaii, and to the people of the United States of America—the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

Under current law, the Social Security Administration does not pay benefits for the last month of life. It doesn't matter what day of the month the retiree dies. Even if a Social Security beneficiary dies on the very last day of the

month, the surviving spouse or family members must send back the Social Security check for that month.

This is an unfair and heartless rule.

When a loved one dies, there are expenses that the family must take care of:

There are final bills to pay. There are utility bills that need to be paid. There is rent or a mortgage that must be taken care of, and oftentimes, there are final health expenses.

Companies will not cancel these bills for that final month of life. These expenses must still be paid. So why is Social Security telling the family that the final month of Social Security income must be returned? This money is needed for these expenses.

My bill corrects this unfair rule in a simple and straightforward way:

It says that if you die after the 15th of the month, your surviving spouse or the family estate will get the Social Security check for that full month.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and support the Social Security Benefits Protection Act.

#### INTRODUCTION OF THE DEPOSIT INSURANCE FUNDS MERGER ACT OF 2000

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today I join my colleagues, the Chair of the Financial Institutions Subcommittee of the Banking Committee, MARGE ROUKEMA, in introducing the Deposit Insurance Funds Merger Act of 2000. I would like to thank Congresswoman ROUKEMA for her leadership in putting forward this timely legislation.

I believe the merger of the Bank Insurance Fund (BIF) and Savings Association Insurance Fund (SAIF) is a matter of substantial public policy importance that should be addressed on its independent merits. A merger of the BIF and SAIF would clearly benefit the deposit insurance system by creating a single, more diversified fund that is less vulnerable to regional economic problems. In addition, a merger of the funds would more accurately reflect the reality of today's financial services industry, in which 46 percent of the SAIF deposits are held by commercial banks and FDIC-regulated state savings banks. In fact, the funds have lost their independent identities, and we should rationalize their structure. Both industries should support the change as bringing needed rationality and stability to the deposit insurance funds.

The merger of the funds is an issue that I therefore believe merits independent consideration and Congressional action in the near term.

I look forward to working closely with my colleagues on this very critical issue.

TRIBUTE TO LEE KANON ALPERT

**HON. HOWARD L. BERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

**HON. BRAD SHERMAN**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. BERMAN. Mr. Speaker, my colleague, Mr. SHERMAN, and I, today pay tribute to Lee Kanon Alpert, who has been selected to receive this year's prestigious Fernando Award for outstanding volunteerism. He will be honored Friday March 10, 2000 at the 41st Annual Special Recognition Dinner by the Board of Directors of the Fernando Award Foundation and his name will be placed alongside previous winners at the base of the magnificent bronze statue of "Fernando" which stands in the San Fernando Valley Civic Center.

The Fernando Award was created to honor individuals who have exemplified leadership, volunteerism and dedication. It is recognized as the leading award for civic accomplishment in the San Fernando Valley. The process by which selection is made each year includes extensive participation by community organizations and community leaders. This year that process has yielded a particularly worthy recipient.

Lee has been a practicing attorney for over 28 years. In his distinguished legal career, he has developed expertise in numerous areas of the law, including administrative and governmental relations, arbitration and mediation, family law and real estate transactions. Despite his extensive professional responsibilities, he has taken an active role in the community, serving on numerous boards and commissions, providing public commentary on radio and television programs, writing articles and editorials for legal and news publications and assuming leadership roles within a variety of civic organizations.

Lee Alpert currently serves as President of the Los Angeles City Board of Building and Safety Commission and is outgoing president of the California State University Northridge, Advisory Board. He is the current co-chair of the California State Assembly Business Advisory Commission which provides counsel to Assembly member Robert Hertzberg. He has previously served as the co-chair of the California State Senate Small Business Advisory Commission. Since 1993 he has chaired the Governing Board of Directors of the Encino—Tarzana Regional Medical Centers (Hospitals) Joint Venture between American Medical International (AMI) and Health Trust, Inc.

Mr. Speaker, distinguished colleagues, please join in paying tribute to Lee Alpert. We are grateful for the tireless service he has given to his community and the many ways he exemplifies good citizenship. We congratulate him on the well deserved honor he is about to receive.

HONORING DR. IRVING SMILER  
FOR HIS FIFTY YEARS OF SERVICE  
TO THE FRANKFORD COMMUNITY

**HON. ROBERT A. BORSKI**

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. BORSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Irving Smiler for his fifty years of service to the Frankford Community.

During the post World War II era, Dr. Irving Smiler rose to reclaim one's sense of nationalism for the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. Dr. Smiler devoted his entire life for the betterment of others. Dr. Smiler, a native Philadelphian, located his pursuit in the Frankford Community and for the past fifty years toiled to create a community worth noting. I am honored to know an individual of such character, voice, and determination.

Dr. Smiler advanced the meaning of an honest life by devoting his mindset to the study of Podiatry. After completely his undergraduate work at Temple University College of Podiatric Medicine in 1948, he felt the true testament of the "American Dream" by struggling to locate a place of business to put that education into action. Finally, he located Frankford and Pratt where he went into business with a young optometrist. Together they formed a practice and a lasting friendship in the heart of Frankford.

To further advance his practice and knowledge base, Dr. Smiler gained more autonomy and liberty by acquiring a Doctorate of Podiatric Medicine in the late 1960's. Skillfully juggling his responsibilities to his beloved wife and three children, he managed to publish several medical journals and a book entitled, *Geriatric Foot Care: An Aging Challenge*. These publications served solely as a foundation for Dr. Smiler's devotion and dedication to the education of others which was apparent through his numerous lectures to the Frankford Hospital Community.

The pursuit of happiness in the eyes of Dr. Smiler based upon his curriculum vitae and his professional development was twofold, first to the study of Podiatry and secondly to the betterment of the community. Dr. Smiler is a solid witness and steward of the American ideals of life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Irving Smiler should be commended for his tireless pursuit to support the development of the Frankford Community from its post World War II conception to even beyond the new millennium. I congratulate and highly revere Dr. Smiler upon this most glorious occasion on his fifty years of service and I offer him my best wishes in the coming years.

**LUTHER MASINGILL**

**HON. ZACH WAMP**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. WAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a citizen who has contributed as much as anyone in the Third District of Tennessee to the wonderful quality of life that all of us



who live there are privileged to enjoy. The occasion is his 78th birthday, but this tribute could be delivered any day. It is a testament to how universally known, loved and admired he is that you only have to say the word "Luther," and just about anyone will know you are referring to Luther Masingill, who has made Chattanooga's mornings brighter for 60 years.

He signed on as host of his near universally known morning show on WDEF Radio, then an AM only station, on December 31, 1940. Franklin Delano Roosevelt was President then, and we were on the eve of World War II. Luther has seen Chattanooga—and the world—change mightily during his years on the air. Eleven U.S. Presidents as well as numerous Tennessee governors and Chattanooga mayors have come and gone while Luther has held way on the air. Luther has stayed on, however; and the "secrets" of his success and value to the Chattanooga area have remained the same.

His radio show, now broadcast on WDEF AM and FM from 6–9 a.m. each weekday morning, does not focus on the controversies that tear us apart. By design, Luther devotes his show to the things that bring us together and make us human. Is your dog or cat missing? Would you like to buy or sell an animal? Is your civil club meeting or having a sale? His show is very much about neighbors helping neighbors and swapping information across the backyard fence, or at the grocery store, or after church. And his devoted listeners treat Luther as their friend and neighbor, which indeed he is.

Luther plays relaxing, traditional music in between announcements; and his warm, reassuring voice has made countless folks in Southeast Tennessee, North Georgia, North Alabama and Western North Carolina begin the day in a better spirit, no matter what the day may bring. He also does a spot on the noon news on Channel 12, WDEF television, and he's been with that station since it signed on in 1954.

Today, March 9, 2000, is your 78th birthday, Luther; and so we say a loud "Happy Birthday!" and thanks for all you have done to enrich our lives and communities. And here's wishing you many more years on the air!

**PROVIDE RELIEF TO AMERICAN  
ENERGY CONSUMERS: SUSPEND  
THE TARIFF ON NUCLEAR  
STEAM GENERATORS**

**HON. MAC COLLINS**

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. COLLINS. Mr. Speaker, in ongoing efforts to ensure safety and efficiency, nuclear power plants must periodically replace their steam generators. When a Florida manufacturing plant closes its doors following the delivery of two steam generators this year, there will no longer be any steam generator producers in the United States. Consequently, the 103 nuclear power facilities located in the United States will have no choice but to import replacement steam generators.

Under the Harmonized Tariff Schedule, steam generators imported for use in nuclear power plants are taxed at a duty rate of 5.2 percent (except those imported from Canada,

where a zero duty rate applies). Importing a single \$30 million steam generator results in a tariff of approximately \$1.56 million. Because nuclear plants generally replace two of these generators at a time, the cost of this hidden tax to consumers is considerable. Unless it is addressed, this duty will increase the cost of supplying electricity to Georgia's rate payers by \$2.7 million this year. Such unnecessary expenses are inevitably incorporated into the rate base.

According to the Nuclear Regulatory Commission (NRC), at least a dozen nuclear power plants are planning to replace their steam generators over the next several years. Since there are no domestic manufacturers, there is no legitimate reason to continue imposing this duty. American consumers should not be required to bear this unnecessary cost.

Today, with the support and original cosponsorships of colleagues from Tennessee, Arizona, Georgia, and Connecticut, I am introducing legislation that will suspend the duty on steam generators for nuclear facilities for five years, providing significant relief for energy consumers around the country. I urge my colleagues to join me in support of this legislation.

**HONORING NORTH CAROLINA AGRICULTURE COMMISSIONER JIM GRAHAM**

**HON. BOB ETHERIDGE**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of myself and Mr. PRICE of North Carolina to honor a great American and a true friend to farmers, North Carolina Agricultural Commissioner Jim Graham. When Jim announced that he would not be a candidate for re-election to the post he has held since 1964, citizens of the state could be pardoned if they looked to the heavens for a possible misalignment of the planets. After all, this individual has become a North Carolina icon, beloved by the farmers he promised "to take care of," and by individual citizens who appreciated his unfailing good humor and dedication. "I love my job," Jim Graham said at the end of every speech he gave. He meant it, and the people knew.

Still, North Carolinians will understand and approve of the Commissioner's decision. He is, after all, now 78 years of age; he has served well and long; and he deserves a respite from the day-to-day turmoil that is characteristic of any public office. His friends—and all of North Carolina is filled with Jim Graham's friends—wish for him peace and joy for the rest of his years.

But it will be difficult to conjure up his successor, and he will be missed. It is extremely doubtful that any campaign for Agricultural Commissioner will ever be as colorful as those run by Graham, who could bray like the donkey of the party he represented and was not above making promises that others would never have dared keep. Such as the one Graham made that he would kiss the north end of a mule who was headed south if a particular county would vote Democratic from the top of the ticket to the bottom. And it did, and he did, to the amusement of the whole state's media.

Graham came to the job as Commissioner of Agriculture like an eagle returning to its nest—without hesitation. Reared on a farm in Rowan County, he knows from whereof he speaks when he talks about the "sweat and blood" farmers must expend in order to make a living. From day one, his love for those who till the soil has been unquestioned.

The Commissioner was born on April 7, 1921 to a Rowan County couple, the late James T. and Laura Graham. He attended high school in Rowan County and is a graduate of his beloved North Carolina State University. Graham taught agriculture in Iredell County for three years, then because superintendent of Upper Mountain Research State in Laurel Springs before becoming manager of the Winston-Salem Fair for three years. After a one-year stint as secretary of the North Carolina Hereford Association, he became general manager of the State Farmers Market. Governor Terry Sanford, who never hesitated when the job came open upon the death of L.Y. Ballentine, appointed him Commissioner of Agriculture in 1964.

Commissioner Graham's tenure as Agricultural Commissioner coincided with North Carolina's transition from a largely rural agriculture state known chiefly for its tobacco to the growing Sun Belt technology giant it is becoming today. The Research Triangle was in its infancy when Graham took office. Today, it is the heartbeat of North Carolina, propelling the state into an Information Age where the assumed parameters change by the day.

Jim Graham prospered in that atmosphere, glorifying farmers wherever he went. He also began promoting new crops North Carolina farmers had not grown before. Within the department, he hired good people, insisted that they run an efficient agency, and he expanded the agency as the state grew. He organized state farmers markets in Asheville, Greensboro, Charlotte, Raleigh, and Lumberton, but he also promoted the use of microelectronics technology for the inspection of meat, poultry and seafood so consumers could be protected.

Graham was an early proponent of foreign trade, realizing that North Carolina farmers would be better off if they could sell their products to the rest of the world. Today, the state is one of the leaders in the export of agricultural products. The department ran a boll weevil eradication program that was so successful that cotton is once again a stable crop in the state. The department modernized its soil testing service and promoted it heavily, thereby increasing per acre production for all crops.

Commissioner Graham, ever the showman on behalf of agriculture, was in his element as he grew the North Carolina State Fair into an event that today attracts more than 6 million persons annually. The State Fair is now 10 days of the best that North Carolina farmers, dairymen, and craftsmen can produce, surrounded by enough entertainment to make the Fair an October delight for young and old. Presiding over it is always the "Sod Father" in his cowboy hat and boots, typically with a crowd following him around the fairgrounds.

As Commissioner, Graham has been honored with dozens of awards and distinguished service citations. Catawba College has awarded him the Honorary doctor of Humanitarian Service, and NC State named him the winner of its alumni Meritorious Service Award.

But it is Graham's personality, his inner being, that will be most missed after his retirement. The kind of inner strength that caused him to personally care for his wife, Helen, as they fought the terrible disease of Alzheimer's that ended in her death last year.

Commissioner Graham is the soul of agriculture in this state and was proud of it. North Carolinians will miss him in that office.

They will miss a public servant who never took himself so seriously that he could not reach out and grab a slice of the humor of life—even if the joke was on him.

They will miss a man so genuine that he could tell a newspaper columnist this about his concern for farmers:

"These people are hurting. One fellow wrote me that if we could just pay his light bill, he'd try to get by. That's the situation they're in. I'm worried about 'em."

Can a society ask more of those who call themselves public servant?

Jim Graham has served his state and its people with distinction, with honesty, with hard work, and with honor.

He is a gentleman who is also a gentleman. We thank a Kind Providence that it saw fit to place us on the same Highway of Life of James A. Graham, and allowed us to share that life.

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HONORING LIEUTENANT STANLEY  
WILLIAM KONESKY, JR. FOR  
OUTSTANDING SERVICE TO THE  
COMMUNITY

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**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Ms. DeLAURO. Mr. Speaker, it gives me great pleasure to rise today to honor my good friend, Lieutenant Stanley Konesky for the invaluable contributions he has made to the Branford community. On Thursday, December 16, family, friends, and community members gathered to show their appreciation on the occasion of his retirement from the Branford Police Department.

Stan's outstanding level of commitment and dedication to the Branford community throughout his twenty-eight year career has been incredible. He has been a driving force in community awareness and public safety locally and nationally, striving to give our families better neighborhoods in which to raise our children. His work has had an invaluable impact on our community and we are all grateful.

Rising through the ranks of the Branford Police Department, Stan has served the community in several different capacities. During his first years as a patrol officer, Stan administered crime prevention and patrol deployment grants and created and implemented the Student Awareness School Program—a program recognized by the United States Congress as an exemplary nationwide program. As he continued his career, Stan undertook several projects focusing on the prevention of youth violence, directing effective programs for youngsters throughout Branford. He also continued to focus on discovering ways to find more state and federal support for Connecticut police departments. His devotion to ensuring public safety led to implementing several state and federal grants, such as COPS FAST, an

earlier version of the COPS Universal Hiring Program. His efforts have also included the publication of several articles in leading crime prevention magazines as well as instructional books on crime prevention. Somehow, Stan also found time to volunteer his time on several committees throughout the Branford community: The Board of Education Strategic Planning Team, the Branford School Base Health Program, and the Branford Volunteer Service Committee have all benefitted from his service. He has also served as the President of the Walter Camp Football Foundation and has generously given his time as a coach for youth baseball and basketball leagues. His unique spirit and commitment are reflected in the 10 medals of commendation, 330 letters of appreciation and recognition from the public, a myriad of community service awards, and a US Congressional Recognition Award. Words alone cannot adequately convey just what Stan has been to the Branford community.

Stan's dedication and generosity has truly enriched the Branford community. His diligence and extraordinary hard work has given police departments across the country and many youngsters access to the necessary support to ensure the safety of our communities, our families, and our children. I have had the opportunity to work with Stan on several different projects and the enthusiasm and excitement he has shown is amazing. I would like to extend my personal thanks to him for all the assistance he has given me over the years. For his many contributions, whether professional or volunteer, I rise today to join his family, friends and colleagues in congratulating Lieutenant Stanley Konesky on his retirement from the Branford Police Department. I extend my deepest appreciation and very best wishes as he begins a new career and seeks new goals to achieve.

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HONORING RAY CHAMPINE FROM  
MARTIN, TN

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**HON. JOHN S. TANNER**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. TANNER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Ray Champine, a longtime Postal Service Letter Carrier in Martin, TN, who, with no regard for his own safety, entered the burning home of an elderly customer in order to rescue him. While on his route, Mr. Champine was alerted by a smoke alarm and smoke emitting from the eaves of a house that there was a problem. After asking a neighbor to call the fire department, he bravely entered the house and crawled through the thick, black smoke until he found the elderly man near his bed in the back of the house. Although surrounded by the encompassing smoke and struggling to breathe, Mr. Champine dragged the man away from the fire in order to remove him to safety outside the burning home. He smashed through a window hoping it was the backdoor and local rescuers heard the breaking glass and knocked down the door closest to the broken window. Martin Fire Captain Dickie Hart and Police Captain Don Teal were able to bring both men to safety. Martin Director of Public Safety, J.D. Sanders, praised Mr. Champine and other rescuers, saying, "If they hadn't shown up when they did, both men

would probably have died at the back door. As it is, Mr. Champine without a doubt, is a hero."

Mr. Speaker, I also include an article about this heroic deed for the RECORD.

[Volunteer Voices, Feb. 2000]

"... WITHOUT A DOUBT A HERO"—MARTIN  
CARRIER RISKS LIFE TO SAVE CUSTOMER

Imagine standing in front of a burning building, knowing there's someone inside, and knowing that unless you do something to help, that person is probably going to die.

That's the exact situation Martin, TN City Carrier Ray Champine found himself facing on December 7 of last year. But what he did would definitely fall into the category of "above and beyond the call."

Champine was making his normal deliveries on Oxford Street. He had just put the mail in the box when he heard a high pitched whine.

"I was almost sure it was a smoke alarm, but I couldn't tell where it was coming from," said Champine. "So I went back to the previous house to see if it was coming from there."

As Champine approached Golsby Gatewood's home, he saw a wisp of smoke coming from under the eaves of the house.

"I asked the next-door neighbors to call the fire department, but I knew Mr. Gatewood wasn't real mobile, so I decided to try to help him," said Champine.

After repeatedly calling to Gatewood, Champine finally heard him respond. The front door was unlocked and smoke was beginning to fill the room.

"It was already pitch black inside the house, so I kept calling for Mr. Gatewood," said Champine. "I finally found him near his bed in the back of the house and I tried to help him out the fastest way I could by dragging him out of the building."

But by that time, the fire had spread through the front of the home, blocking the front door. Champine dragged Gatewood to the back of the house then tried to escape by breaking what he thought was the window of the side door.

"The smoke was so thick I didn't realize I was breaking a window that was a few feet from the door," Champine. "If I had known that, I would have just reached out and opened it."

Rescuers who had just arrived on the scene, heard the breaking glass and Martin Fire Capt. Dickie Hart and Police Capt. Don Teal knocked down the door.

Martin Director of Public Safety J.D. Sanders praised Champine's heroic action.

"If Dickie and Don hadn't shown up when they did, both of the men probably would have died right there by that back door. As it is, Mr. Champine is without a doubt, a hero. Without him, there's no question that Mr. Gatewood wouldn't have made it."

Officers on the scene reported that the smoke was so thick in the building that only Gatewood could be seen when the door was opened, even though Champine was standing next to the elderly gentleman.

Champine suffered a cut on his hand from breaking the window, and sustained burns to his face, ears and eyes. He was hospitalized for several days following the incident for severe smoke inhalation.

Postmaster Glenn Shegog added her voice to those who praised Champine.

"Ray is an outstanding employee and a great co-worker and we're all thankful that he's on the road to recovery," said Shegog.

After all is said and done, Champine's only request was a simple one. "I'd really like to find my cap," said Champine. "I lost it somewhere in the house and I'd really like to have it back."

THE SILVER ANNIVERSARY CAPITAL PRICE FESTIVAL, JUNE 2-11, 2000

### HON. ELEANOR HOLMES NORTON

OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA  
IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to the 25th Annual Capital Pride Festival, a celebration of and for the National Capital Area's lesbian, gay, bisexual, and transgendered communities and their friends.

Since its beginning in 1975, the Capital Pride Festival has grown from a small block party into a nine-day series of events. On Sunday, June 11, 2000, the Festival will culminate in a large downtown parade and a magnificent Pennsylvania Avenue street fair attended by people of all backgrounds from the District and the region. In 1999, more than 200 contingents marched in the parade; more than 200,000 people attended the street fair in the shadow of the Capitol; and hundreds of vendors and organizations set up stalls, booths and pavilions. The street fair featured more than five hours of local entertainers and national headline performers.

Last year, when I recognized this celebration in the House, it had been 35 years since the passage of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Yet another year has passed, and despite evidence of pervasive prejudice in employment, Congress has not yet protected sexual ori-

entation from discrimination. Far worse, in the fact of many reports of violence and physical abuse, Congress has not yet enacted protection against abuse solely because of a person's sexual orientation. Congress must pass the Employment Non-Discrimination Act (ENDA). Congress must pass the Hate Crimes Prevention Act and, now, Congress must pass the Permanent Partners Immigration Act of 2000.

In this new millennium, let us achieve the American goal of eliminating discrimination based on sexual orientation, unite loved ones, celebrate the accomplishments of the Gay and Lesbian Community, and remember those who we have lost.

Mr. Speaker, I ask the House to join me in saluting the 25th Annual Capital Pride Festival, its organizers, the Whitman-Walker Clinic and One-in-Ten, its sponsors, and the volunteers, whose dedicated and creative energy make the Pride Festival possible. May we truly have "Pride 25."

TAX CREDITS WITHOUT INSURANCE REPORT DON'T WORK: PART 2

### HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, I submitted data (page E247) showing that refundable tax credits to purchase health insurance don't work, unless we accompany the credits with insurance reform.

Yesterday's data on 120 different price quotes for individual and family insurance did not include any follow-up calls to the insurers to see what would happen if there were medical underwriting.

I asked my staff to call 8 insurers in the Los Angeles and Northern Virginia markets which had provided quotes through the Internet service, Quotesmith.com. My staffer confirmed the Internet quoted price and then said, "Oh by the way, four years ago, I had a bout of skin cancer. . . ." You would have thought my staffer had an active case of bubonic plague! the results are listed below.

Again, Mr. Speaker, this small sample experiment shows that refundable tax credits without insurance reform are not worth much. I urge Members interested in this approach to consider the types of reforms included in H.R. 2185.

#### PRICE QUOTES AFTER MEDICAL UNDERWRITING

Health insurance company	Price before cancer (per month)	Price after cancer (per month)	Response <sup>1</sup>
Los Angeles, California			
Blue Cross of California	\$109	\$501/\$288	A physical is required. Initially, 15-20% increase in rates for pre-existing conditions. when condition specified as cancer, there is a temporary plan that is offered for a period of 5-6 months at \$501, until the actual plan of \$288 has an opening.
Health Net Life Insurance	107	0	Access was automatically denied over the phone once the condition of cancer was mentioned.
CPIC Life	125	0	Access was automatically denied over the phone once the condition of cancer was mentioned.
Aetna US Healthcare	171	0	Only provide coverage through employment.
CIGNA	134	N/A	No physical is required, however there is a set of questions that need to be answered before exact rate can be given.
FAIRFAX COUNTY, VIRGINIA			
Celtic Life	167	167	Do not increase their prices based upon any pre-existing condition. However, they will either include a rider coverage, exclusion clause, or decline coverage.
Reliance Insurer/Ultimate choice Company	113	N/A	Possible chance for increase, however more incline to provide exclusion clause.
Unicare Life and Health Insurance	164	<sup>1,2</sup> 164	Based upon actual diagnosis there maybe a waiver clause added that will eliminate any sort of payment for conditions related to the cancer for either 2.5, or 10 years after entering the plan.

<sup>1</sup> Responses based upon information from sales representatives not actual underwriters.

<sup>2</sup> Company may or may not increase fees, based upon doctor's findings and underwriters suggestion.

#### LETTER OF GRATITUDE

### HON. BERNARD SANDERS

OF VERMONT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. Speaker, I insert for printing in the RECORD the following letter from Robert and Patricia Arnold of Newport, Vermont expressing their gratitude to the personnel of the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command for taking action to save their son, Nathaniel's, life.

I believe the views of Robert and Patricia Arnold will benefit my colleagues.

NEWPORT, VT.

December 27, 1999.

Admiral [Frank L.] BOWMAN

Director, Dir. Div. of NAVREACT DOE, Washington, DC.

DEAR ADMIRAL BOWMAN, On November 23, 1999, our eighteen year old son, Nathaniel Spencer Arnold, a Seaman in training at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, was admitted to the hospital and near death as a result of a serious illness he had encoun-

tered in the preceding six weeks. Nathaniel had enlisted in the Navy on July 29th, 1999, competed boot camp, and was three weeks into his training at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command. He had graduated from boot camp with academic honors for his division and, as of November 24th, was maintaining a 3.2 average at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command. The significance of his efforts and ability are better understood with the knowledge that he maintained this standing at Naval Nuclear Power Training Command while losing 45 of his normal 150 pounds in the course of battling the illness he had encountered during the preceding six weeks. It is also indicative of the value Nathaniel placed on fulfilling his desire to enter the Navy and to excel at his chosen career.

On November 26, we were contacted by Lt. Callahan, acting in behalf of the Navy and the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command, to notify us of the seriousness of our son's illness and to arrange for and make the travel arrangements to get my wife and I down to Charleston. We were informed that due to the seriousness of his illness, the Navy had established a watch for him pending either his recovery or his death. It would

be difficult to detail all the events which have transpired since that eventful day but suffice it to say that despite his prognosis at the time, Nathaniel survived his illness and went on to impress the doctors with his remarkably quick and continuing recovery process. Words can never express the personal meaning to us of Nathaniel's recovery.

Nonetheless, we can express our appreciation to the Navy and the personnel acting in behalf of the Navy for the efforts taken in behalf of Nathaniel and ourselves. This letter is written to express for the record our deep appreciation to the Navy and its representatives at the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command in Charleston, South Carolina, for those efforts. It is very plain to us that Nathaniel's life would have been lost but for the efforts of the Navy in securing the medical treatment he received. It is also very plain to us that our presence with Nathaniel also played an important role in his survival of that eventful night of November 26th in which he turned the corner with respect to battling his illness. . . . a presence he would have been denied but for the help we obtained with our travel arrangements through the efforts of the Navy personnel at Naval Power Training Command.

I would like to specially recognize Captain Hicks, the commanding officer of the NNPTC, for his role in ensuring that the Naval Nuclear Power Training Command offered its best to Nathaniel and ourselves during this process. And I would be remiss not to mention the efforts of Commander Crossley and Lt. Callahan for the quality of their efforts in Nathaniel's and our behalf. I would like to commend Commander Crossley for his direct interest and rapport with Nathaniel which contributed in no small way to Nathaniel's recovery. And I would like to commend Lt. Callahan for his personal interest and the thoroughness with which he carried out the directions of Captain Hicks and Commander Crossley in ensuring that everything possible was done for Nathaniel and ourselves while in Charleston. And the direct interest of not only Petty Officer Baker but also his wife in Nathaniel's well-being during his hospitalization should not be omitted. All of these individuals contributed not only in Nathaniel's recovery but also conveyed a very positive image of the Navy to all involved in this process. . . . from the hospital staff all the way down to the family and friends of the other residents of the Intensive Care Unit at the Trident Medical Center in Charleston and ourselves.

We would like to do all we can to recognize the Navy's efforts in helping Nathaniel successfully recover from his illness and to recognize the individual endeavors of the Navy personnel in carrying out those efforts. We would also like to recognize the excellent relationship which exists between the Navy and the medical staff of the Trident Medical Center which permitted Nathaniel to receive the care he required. This letter is being written for that purpose and my wife and I hope that it has, in some way, accomplished our desire to recognize the Navy, its personnel, and those operating in behalf of the Navy for their excellence in returning to us the life of our son.

Very truly yours,

ROBERT AND PATRICIA ARNOLD.

## THE MEDICARE WELLNESS ACT OF 2000

**HON. MARK FOLEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. FOLEY. Mr. Speaker, for far too long, our health care system has been taking the wrong approach. The primary focus has been on treating people once they become sick rather than preventing their illness in the first place. I have often spoken out in favor of a greater focus on preventive health care. My home state of Florida has one of the largest senior populations in the country. Heart disease and cancer account for roughly 60% of deaths in the state each year, with strokes contributing significantly to the other 40%. It would be great if we could cut the incidence of heart disease and strokes in half by providing individuals with nutrition and smoking cessation counseling.

More and more, health care providers and health insurance companies in the private sector are making periodic disease screening and lifestyle counseling available to their patients at no extra cost. In fact, they are encouraging their patients to take advantage of these services. Although we did pass several very impor-

tant preventive benefits in the Balanced Budget Act of 1997, I would like to see the federal Medicare system play a greater role in promoting disease prevention and healthy lifestyles.

I am pleased to join Congressman LEVIN in sponsoring the Medicare Wellness Act in the House to encourage this fundamental shift in Medicare policy. In addition to expanding disease screening and prevention services, this bill will also create mechanisms within the Department of Health and Human Services to increase awareness of factors that impact health and to encourage a change in personal health habits.

Not only does preventive care create a healthier population with a higher quality of life, it also saves money. This is especially important for the Medicare system as we struggle to control its spending to maintain its solvency in the wake of rising health care costs. Even though expanding preventive benefits will cost money in the short term, the long term savings will be immense. Keeping people healthier will reduce the number of hospital admissions, operations, and drug prescriptions—three of Medicare's highest cost items.

I am confident that with the combined efforts of Congressman LEVIN and myself—along with Senators GRAHAM, JEFFORDS and BINGAMAN—the Medicare Wellness Act will be a significant part of any Medicare legislation that is considered this year.

### MEDICARE WELLNESS ACT OF 2000 SUMMARY

The Medicare Wellness Act represents a concerted effort to change the fundamental focus of the Medicare program. It would change the program from a sickness program to a wellness program, one that treats illness before it happens.

Title I: Establishes the Healthy Seniors Promotion Program. This program will bring together all the agencies within the Department of Health and Human Services that address the medical, social and behavioral issues affecting the elderly and instruct them to conduct a series of studies that will increase knowledge about and utilization of prevention services among the elderly.

Title II: Adds several new preventative screening and counseling benefits to the Medicare program, including: screening for hypertension, counseling for tobacco cessation (for those with a history of tobacco use), screening for glaucoma (for high-risk beneficiaries), counseling for hormone replacement therapy, screening for vision and hearing loss, nutrition therapy (for high risk beneficiaries), expanded screening and counseling for osteoporosis, and screening for cholesterol (for beneficiaries with a history of heart disease).

Title III: Establishes a health risk appraisal and education program aimed at major behavioral risk factors such as diet, exercise, alcohol and tobacco use, and depression. This program will target both pre-65 individuals and current Medicare beneficiaries. The main goal of this program is to increase awareness among individuals of major risk factors that impact on health, to change personal health habits, improve health status, and save the Medicare program money.

Titles IV and V: Authorize prevention demonstration projects and require the Institute of Medicine to conduct a study every five years to assess the scientific validity of the entire

Medicare prevention benefits package. The study will be reviewed by Congress using a "fast-track" process which will force Congress out of the business of micro-managing the Medicare program.

Title VI: Authorizes a demonstration project on depression screening. The results will be evaluated by the Institute of Medicine, which will make recommendations to Congress about whether to add this benefit to Medicare.

## THE MEDICARE WELLNESS ACT OF 2000

**HON. SANDER M. LEVIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to join with my colleague, MARK FOLEY, in introducing the Medicare Wellness Act of 2000. We believe this bill will accelerate Medicare's transformation from a "sickness" program to a "wellness" program. Helping seniors stay healthy improves quality of life for Medicare beneficiaries, and in the long run, it will save Medicare money on hospitals and nursing homes.

The Medicare Wellness Act would modernize Medicare by adding basic preventive care benefits. Most working Americans take these benefits—things like blood pressure screening, glaucoma testing, and cholesterol screening—for granted. Unfortunately, the Medicare program currently pays nothing if seniors choose to get these screenings.

In 1997, Congress added the first preventive care benefits to Medicare. For the first time, Medicare beneficiaries could get mammograms, colorectal cancer screening, and diabetes self-management services. Unfortunately, the number of seniors getting those screenings has not increased as much as we hoped. Part of the reason is that all those benefits are still subject to Medicare cost-sharing. For many seniors, that means they still can't afford to get the screenings they need. Another problem is that seniors simply are not aware of the new benefits. The Medicare Wellness Act would correct both problems by eliminating cost sharing for prevention services and authorizing new public education efforts.

In my congressional district, use of Medicare's prevention benefits is still disappointingly low. According to researchers at the Dartmouth Medical School, over 70% of my senior constituents do not receive annual mammograms, and over 80% are not screened for colorectal cancer. I believe the Medicare Wellness Act will help improve these rates, while also giving 1.4 million people in Michigan access to new prevention benefits.

We are pleased to be joined in this effort by Senators BOB GRAHAM, JIM JEFFORDS, and JEFF BINGAMAN, who have introduced companion legislation in the other body.

The bipartisan, bicameral consensus that Medicare needs to cover preventive benefits gives us a real opportunity to improve Medicare now. The sooner we act, the sooner senior citizens will have better health insurance.

FORTY-FOURTH ANNIVERSARY OF  
TUNISIAN INDEPENDENCE

**HON. NICK J. RAHALL II**

OF WEST VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. RAHALL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to acknowledge the anniversary of the 44th year of Independence for the Republic of Tunisia, to be celebrated on March 20, 2000.

Legend has it that more than 200 years ago, Tunis, as token of esteem and friendship, sent one of its finest stallions to U.S. President George Washington. Unfortunately, customs officials in the nascent republic denied entry to the horse, which spent its remaining days in the port of Baltimore.

After this somewhat rocky start, I am pleased to note that U.S.-Tunisian relations have improved considerably. Tunisia is about to celebrate its 44th anniversary of the establishment of the Republic of Tunisia as an independent country, a time during which Tunisia has enjoyed a strong and healthy relationship with the United States.

I congratulate Tunisia for its many accomplishments, not the least of which is to have established a more democratic system of government, making every effort to broaden political debate, including passage of an electoral law that reserved 19 seats of the National assembly for members of opposition political parties.

Tunisia has a very impressive economic record, having turned to economic programs designed to privatize state owned companies and to reform the banking and financial sectors over the last decade.

As a result Tunisia's economy has grown at an average rate of 4.65 percent just in the last several years, and its economic success has had a beneficial impact on Tunisia's international standing. Tunisia is one of the few countries to graduate successfully from development assistance and to join the developed world.

Tunisia has also become a moderating force in the Middle East peace process, taking an active role within the international community in fighting terrorism, while maintaining internal stability in the face of external chaos.

I am pleased with the increasingly strong ties between the United States and Tunisia, and join the American people in congratulating the people of Tunisia on this historic occasion. I encourage my colleagues to do the same.

IN RECOGNITION OF TEXAS  
PUBLIC SCHOOLS WEEK

**HON. RON PAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. PAUL. Mr. Speaker, as this is Texas Public Schools Week, I wanted to take a moment to offer my thanks to the parents and teachers of my district and those across Texas for all of their hard work to make sure our children get the best education possible. Unfortunately, Congress and the federal bureaucracy continues to strip authority away from parents, teachers and local school boards. While Congress promises the American people that ex-

pansions of federal control over local schools will create an education utopia, the fact is the federal education bureaucracy has only made educating the next generation more difficult and diverted resources away from the classroom. For example, while the federal government provides less than 10% of education funding, many school districts find that over 50% of their paperwork is generated by federal mandates. The federal government also forces local school officials to jump through numerous hoops in order to get Washington to return a ridiculously small portion of taxpayer moneys to local public schools.

Over thirty years of centralized control of education has resulted in failure and frustrated parents. It is time for Washington to return control of the nation's school system to the people who best know the needs of the children: local communities and parents. The key to doing so is to return control of the education dollar back to the American people.

In order to give control of education back to the people I have introduced the Family Education Freedom Act (HR 935). This bill provides parents with a \$3,000 per child tax credit for K-12 education expenses.

The Family Education Freedom Act fulfills the American people's goal of greater control over their children's education by simply allowing parents to keep more of their hard-earned money to spend on education rather than force them to send it to Washington to support education programs reflective of the values and priorities of Congress and the federal bureaucracy.

The Family Education Freedom Act will help parents strengthen their child's public education. Parents may use the credit to improve schools by helping to finance the purchase of education tools such as computers or extra-curricular activities such as music programs. Parents of public school students may also wish to use the credit to pay for special services for their children.

I have also introduced the Teacher Tax Cut (HR 937), which provides a \$1,000 tax credit for every teacher in America. Quality education is impossible without quality teaching. Yet, America's teachers remain underpaid compared to other professionals. Adding insult to injury, teachers often have to use their own money to purchase supplies for their classroom. For example, according to the Association of Texas Professional Educators, many Texas teachers spent between \$50-300 of their own money on school supplies during the 1998-99 school year!

Because America's teachers are underpaid because they are overtaxed, the best way to raise teacher take-home pay is to reduce their taxes. Raising teachers' take-home pay via a \$1,000 tax credit lets teachers know the American people and the Congress respect their work and encourages high-quality people to enter, and remain in, the teaching profession. I have also introduced the Education Improvement Tax Cut (HR 936), which provides a \$3,000 tax credit for cash or in-kind donations to public schools to support academic or extra-curricular programs. This legislation encourages local-citizens and community leaders to help strengthen local public schools. The Education Improvement Tax Cut Act also ensures that education funding matches the needs of individual communities. People in one community may use this credit to purchase computers, while children in another

community may, at last, have access to a quality music program because of community leaders who took advantage of the tax credit contained in this bill.

Mr. Speaker, my education agenda of returning control over the education dollar to the American people is the best way to strengthen public education. First of all, unlike plans to expand the federal education bureaucracy, my bills are free of "guidelines" and restrictions that dilute the actual number of dollars spent to educate a child. In addition, the money does not have to go through federal and state bureaucrats, each of whom get a cut, before it reaches the classroom. Returning power over the education dollar to the American people will also free public school teachers, administrators and principals from having to comply with numerous federal mandates. Therefore, school personnel will be able to devote their time to working with parents and other concerned citizens to make sure all children are receiving the best possible education.

In conclusion, Mr. Speaker, I once again extend my thanks to all those who are involved in the education of our nation's children. I also call upon my colleagues to help strengthen public schools by returning control over the education dollar to parents and other concerned citizens, as well as raising teacher take-home pay by cutting their taxes, so that the American people can once again make the American education system the envy of the world.

IN HONOR OF LONNIE R. ANDERSON—WHITLEY COUNTY SUPERINTENDENT OF SCHOOLS AND WINNER OF F.L. DUPREE AWARD FOR EXEMPLARY CONTRIBUTIONS TO EDUCATION

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. ROGERS. Mr. Speaker, we often hear about grand, universal plans for making positive changes in our nation's public education system. None of these plans, however, can substitute for the daily effort of educators working at the local level. It is these dedicated professionals, in tens of thousands of local school districts across the nation, who bear the responsibility for touching the lives of the students in their communities. These educators hold the key to the transformation of our nation's system of education—one student at a time.

Today, I want to honor one such professional in Whitley County, Kentucky. The Kentucky School Boards Association (KSBA) has recognized my constituent, Whitley School Superintendent Lonnie R. Anderson, for his distinguished service to the field of education. He has been awarded the KSBA's annual F.L. Dupree Award for exemplary contributions to education. The family of the late F.L. Dupree, Sr., a Lexington businessman and supporter of Kentucky public schools sponsors the award.

Superintendent Anderson has worked tirelessly for the parents and students served by the Whitley County School District over the past nine years. Through his hard work and dedication, he has been a driving force in

bringing about positive changes in the school district, as well as the surrounding community.

Lonnie Anderson accepted the school district's top job in 1991 when the district ranked last among Kentucky's 176 public school districts and the county schools were required to be under state management. In 1999, after nearly a decade of Superintendent Anderson's leadership, the Whitley County School District was measured as one of the top districts in the state for academic improvement. During this period, the district has twice earned "rewards" rankings through the state's system of school assessment and accountability.

Superintendent Anderson is an alumnus of Cumberland College, Union College, and Eastern Kentucky University. He began his education career as a classroom teacher and coordinator of the gifted and talented program in Whitley County. Through a total of 17 years with the school district, he has also served as athletic director, food service director, Chapter I coordinator, and public relations coordinator.

In a recent article in the Corbin (KY) News-Journal, Anderson is credited with the following achievements for the Whitley County School District:

Augmented the district's reading curriculum with the Accelerated Reader Program and the Reading Coaches Program, which pairs high school students with at-risk second and third-graders. Anderson also employs a district reading specialist, established the Even Start Family Literacy Program for parents of young children and initiated a summer reading program.

Directed a school facility modernization effort that built three new elementary schools and established an alternative school. The program also resulted in a new science wing, library and kitchen at Whitley County High School and renovated a middle school and four elementary schools.

Developed the Parents as Volunteer Educators Program (PAVE), in which 600 parents now participate.

Implemented a cash management program that increased earnings on investments from \$52,545 in 1990 to \$332,986 in 1999.

Introduced an energy program with a utilities cost avoidance of over \$150,000 since its implementation in 1998.

Established a newspaper for the school district, The District Ed News, that spotlights student and school achievements and is distributed to every household in the district.

Initiated HEROES (Honoring Educators/Staff Recognizing Outstanding and Extraordinary Services) to honor staff members for years of service to the district.

United five separate adult education providers into one comprehensive program now serving twice the number of people.

One principal who supported Superintendent Anderson's nomination of this prestigious award correctly described him as "an agent of positive change" for the Whitley County School District.

I join educators, parents and students in Whitley County and across Kentucky in congratulating Superintendent Lonnie R. Anderson for being selected for this distinguished award and recognize his outstanding leadership and continued contribution to public education.

## "A SOLDIERS STORY" TRIBUTE TO MR. WILLIAM ELLIS

### HON. DAVE CAMP

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. CAMP. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Mr. William Ellis, a decorated soldier from World War II. I would like to acknowledge his selfless acts as a young Sergeant leading his infantrymen through Germany. His Bronze Star, Good Conduct Medal and many other awards demonstrate his bravery and patriotism. I am proud to stand and honor this glorious citizen of the United States and would like to call his admirable actions to the attention of my colleagues in the House of Representatives.

I have attached for the RECORD one of Mr. Ellis' first-hand experiences, which he shared with me. He has titled it, "A Soldiers Story."

The winter of 1944-1945 in Germany was bitter cold. I was a young infantry sergeant, a 19 year old squad leader in an infantry division that had been advancing and fighting in the mountains for sometime. During a lull in the fighting we came across a valley with a cluster of old stone cottages inhabited by farmers. All the young men had gone to war leaving the old folks to fend as best they could. This was a chance to catch a few hours of much needed sleep indoors. After posting perimeter guards nightfall was first approaching and we sat about to find places to stay for awhile. The house I picked out was much like the others, its stone steps worn down in the middle from many generations that had come and gone. An old German couple lived there and seemed pleasant enough. After sharing what few rations I had with them I went over and sat down in front of the fireplace soaking up some welcomed heat. There was not much light, just an oil lamp and the fireplace. The old man came and sat beside me. I took out my pipe which I always carried along with a package of tobacco that my folks had sent from back home. As I filled my pipe I noticed this old man looking at me intently with a hungering expression in his eyes. In my faltering German I asked him, "du haben sie pipe ja?" Whereupon he got up with an alacrity which belied his age and brought down a pipe from atop the mantel and I passed the package of tobacco to him. He put only a small amount in his pipe, "Nix nix," I said and filled his pipe to the brim. There we sat, a young American soldier and an old German farmer, smoking our pipes in silence each with our own thoughts. The silence was broken only once when the old man looked over at me and said, "pipe goot, ja?" I replied, "ja, pipe goot." As I got up to go "sack out" for a few hours I gave the old man the package of tobacco. Tears rolled down his cheeks as he said "danko, danko." I am now about the same age as was the old man and have thought about the incident a number of times in the intervening years. Each time I have come to the same conclusion, it was a most satisfying conversation.

## UNDERAGE ALCOHOL DRINKING

### HON. GEORGE RADANOVICH

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. RADANOVICH. Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the text of the following correspondence to the House of Representatives.

DEAR DR. FLETCHER: Thank you for sending me a pre-publication copy of your article "Alcohol Home Delivery Services: A Source of Alcohol for Underage Drinkers". As I indicated in our phone conversation, the Senate Judiciary Committee held a hearing on "Interstate Alcohol Sales and the 21st Amendment" March 9, 1999. Testimony at that hearing made reference to your article.

Within the context of that hearing, Utah Attorney General Wayne Klein referenced your upcoming study to indicate that 10% of 12th graders and 7% of 8 to 20 year-olds obtained alcohol through delivery services in the last year. This has left an impression amongst Senators and in the record that these youths were purchasing through interstate alcohol direct shipment mechanisms.

It is my understanding that the questions in your study did not distinguish between interstate delivery mechanisms and delivery from stores within a community. In fact my understanding of our conversation and of your article is that it typically is a community liquor outlet in the area which is making the delivery and that most of these deliveries are beer. As I understand it, your study did not attempt to distinguish interstate shipments of alcohol by common carriers and the purchase and delivery of alcohol from community sources.

Because there has been significant misinterpretation of these results, I am asking that you write Senators Hatch (FAX (202) 224-9102) and Leahy (FAX (202) 224-3479) to clarify the degree to which your studies have relevance to the issue of Interstate Alcohol Sales. I would also like to obtain a copy of your letter, which I am sure will be added to the official record of the committee.

As this is a current and significant issue here on Capitol Hill, your earliest response would be most appreciated. Please let me know if you have any questions or concerns in this regard.

Sincerely,

JOHN MCCAMMAN,  
Chief of Staff.

DEAR MR. MCCAMMAN: This letter is to provide clarification on the findings of the research article "Alcohol Home Delivery Service: A Source of Alcohol for Underage Drinkers." This article is being cited to demonstrate that persons under the legal drinking age of 21 are using direct shipment mechanisms to obtain alcohol. I would like to provide some relevant background on the paper to address this contention.

The survey that is the basis of the article was intended to address whether underage individuals were having alcohol delivered from local liquor stores. Respondents were asked: "In the last year, have you purchased alcoholic beverages that were delivered by a store to a home or individual?" We think this wording is more consistent with retail home deliveries than with direct shipment purchases. While it is possible that some youths interpreted the question to include direct shipment deliveries via the internet, the history of the internet suggests that this is unlikely. Access to the internet did not proliferate until the last several years. Our survey was administered in 1995 in small and medium sized communities. Internet access typically did not become available in smaller towns until significantly later than in larger metro areas.

It is possible that some of our respondents who said they purchased delivered alcohol purchased it via telephone 800 numbers, but there are several factors that makes this less likely. First, we think that youth alcohol purchases tend to be spontaneous, in other words, alcohol is purchased right before consumption. Second, most purchases via 800



numbers require a credit card. Lastly, the delivery time is less predictable which increase the likelihood that an adult will intervene and makes the purchases more "risky." These mitigating factors probably apply to a greater degree to younger individuals than to older youth. While alcohol purchases that are delivered directly to the consumer in any manner clearly raise concerns about unmonitored access to alcohol, our paper does not directly address the issue of youth direct shipment of alcohol or interstate retail sales.

Sincerely,

LINDA A. FLETCHER,  
ALCOHOL EPIDEMIOLOGY PROGRAM,  
University of Minnesota.

# SENIOR CITIZENS' FREEDOM TO WORK ACT OF 1999

SPEECH OF

## HON. BOB ETHERIDGE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 1, 2000

Mr. ETHERIDGE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5, the Senior Citizens Freedom to Work Act. Currently, eight-hundred thousand seniors lose some or all of their Social Security benefits due to the Social Security earnings limit. Seniors ages 65 to 69 have one dollar of their benefits off-set for every three dollars they earn over the \$17,000 income limit.

I strongly support eliminating the earnings limit for every working senior receiving Social Security. Eliminating the earnings limit is not only the fair thing to do for working seniors, it would improve the quality and efficiency of Social Security as well. Repealing the earnings test will make Social Security easier and less expensive to administer. Contrary to the arguments of opponents of H.R. 5, repealing the earnings limit will not jeopardize the long-term solvency of Social Security. Under current law, workers who have their benefits reduced due to the earnings limit receive an actuarial adjustment that increases their benefits once they stop working.

Mr. Speaker, repealing the earnings limit on working seniors is an area where there is a bipartisan consensus for action. I will continue to work to forge the same bipartisan consensus on more comprehensive action to strengthen Social Security for all of our seniors.

# IN RECOGNITION OF BEN THORNBURG

## HON. ROB PORTMAN

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Ben Thornburg, who is being honored by the National Association of Music Educators for his composition entitled "A Prayer." Ben is a senior at Princeton High School in Cincinnati, and he will be honored tonight at the Music Educators National Conference in Washington, D.C., where his composition will be performed by the Princeton High School A Cappella Choir in the Omni Shoreham Ballroom.

The Music Educators National Conference's nationwide Student Composition Competition

recognizes talented young music students in the United States. Ben is one of only 24 elementary through university-level students chosen from across the country. He is an exceptional student composer, and he represents his school and his community well.

By every indication, Ben has a very promising future. I know that the people of Greater Cincinnati join me in wishing him the very best tonight. We are very proud of Ben's achievements and we hope this is the beginning of a bright and successful career.

# LEHIGH VALLEY HERO DONNA MULHOLLAND

## HON. PATRICK J. TOOMEY

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. TOOMEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to pay tribute to one of my constituents, Mrs. Donna Mulholland. Mrs. Mulholland, who is the President and Chief Executive Officer of Easton Hospital in my district, recently won the Girl Scout's World of Well-Being Award for service to the community. As a CEO of a major hospital in my district, Mrs. Mulholland has shown a passionate commitment to quality health care. Through years of hard work and diligence, she gained the experience and knowledge needed to make an impact in her field.

In addition to her corporate excellence, Mrs. Mulholland's personal actions also serve as a model for the community. She has been active as a mentor for the Girl Scouts, serving to motivate and inspire other young women to succeed in their chosen fields. Her contributions in business and community service won her this distinction. I applaud Mrs. Mulholland for her professional achievements and her devotion to the Lehigh Valley community. Donna Mulholland is a Lehigh Valley Hero.

# NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF MEDICAL MINORITY EDUCATORS

## HON. JAMES P. MCGOVERN

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor an organization that has done so much to promote the increase of minority personnel within the health professions. Since its establishment in 1975, the National Association of Medical Minority Educators (NAMME) has worked to attract minority students to health professions and enhance the retention and graduation rate of minority students from professional health schools.

Comprised of nearly 300 health educators from approximately 140 health professions institutions, and organizations, NAMME members work in allopathic medicine, osteopathic medicine, dentistry, veterinary medicine, optometry, pharmacy, podiatry, public health, chiropractic, nursing and all of the allied health professions. Collectively, they work to promote the recruitment and development of minority faculty, administrators, and managerial personnel in the health professions, support the delivery of quality health care for minority pop-

ulations, and promote the philosophy of equal educational opportunity.

I am thrilled that NAMME has chosen the City of Worcester, my home town, to serve as the site of their 11th annual conference. As the face of America changes, so too does the face of our health care providers. It is my belief that organizations such as NAMME are essential for the success of the health care profession.

# HONORING ALICIA JACKSON OF BEAVER DAM, KENTUCKY

## HON. ED WHITFIELD

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. WHITFIELD. Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate and honor a Kentucky student from my District who has achieved national recognition for exemplary volunteer service in her community. Alicia Jackson of Beaver Dam, Kentucky is a senior at Ohio County High School in Hartford. Alicia was named one of my state's top honorees in the 2000 Prudential Spirit of Community Awards program, a nationwide program under which more than 20,000 high school and middle school students were considered for awards.

Alicia is being recognized for her efforts in organizing a week-long series of events to promote Community Traffic Safety Week at her school. Activities organized by Alicia included a crash re-enactment and presentations by guest lecturers.

Alicia is an inspiring example of how we as individual citizens can contribute to our community. People of all ages need to think about how we can work at the local level to ensure the health and vitality of our towns and neighborhoods.

Alicia should be extremely proud to have been singled out from such a large group of volunteers. I heartily applaud Alicia for her initiative and positive impact on others within her community. She offers an encouraging example of the promise which America's youth offer for the future.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 2000, I missed 5 recorded votes because I was a witness in a legal action to keep St. Michael Hospital in Cleveland from closing.

If I had been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall 29, 30, 31, 32 and 33.

# PERSONAL EXPLANATION

## HON. LYNN C. WOOLSEY

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Ms. WOOLSEY. Mr. Speaker, during rollcall votes Nos. 29 through 33 on March 8, 2000, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on each.

IN HONOR OF THE ANCIENT  
ORDER OF HIBERNIANS

**HON. DENNIS J. KUCINICH**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. KUCINICH. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Cleveland's Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians as organizations integral in maintaining and promoting appreciation for Irish culture, history and traditions in the Cleveland community.

The Ancient Order of Hibernians is the oldest Catholic lay organization in America. Its roots in America can be traced to 1836 in New York. The group began to assist Irish immigrants to the new world in obtaining jobs and social services. Today, the Ancient Order of Hibernians has shifted its purpose to charitable activities in support of the Church's missions, community service, and the promotion and preservation of their Irish cultural heritage in America.

The Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians was first organized in 1894 in Omaha, Nebraska under the name "Daughters of Erin." The motto of the Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians is "Friendship, Unity and Christian Charity." Its purpose is to promote Irish history, traditions and culture, and to support the Church through Mission work and Catholic Action activities.

On March 17, 2000, Cleveland's Ancient Order of Hibernians and Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians are hosting the 133rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet accompanying Cleveland's annual St. Patrick's Day Parade. These are the oldest and longest running events in the state of Ohio honoring the Irish patron, St. Patrick, and sharing Irish culture, history and traditions with the community.

At the 133rd Annual St. Patrick's Day Banquet, The United Irish Societies Honorees for the 2000 St. Patrick's Day Parade will be recognized. These individuals have given selflessly of themselves to insure the proud Irish heritage will continue. The honorees include: Mr. William Chambers, the Grand Marshall of the Parade; Ms. Nora Carr, the Irish Mother of the Year; Ms. Linda Carney and Mr. James McGuirk, Parade Co-Chairs; and Mr. James McGuirk, the Hibernian of the Year.

My fellow colleagues, please join me in honoring Cleveland's Ancient Order of Hibernians, Ladies Ancient Order of Hibernians, and all of The United Irish Societies Honorees for the 2000 St. Patrick's Day Parade. The contributions and achievements of these groups and Irish Americans have inspired us all to respect and appreciate the Irish Culture.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF ROBERT  
G. MILES

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Mr. Robert G. Miles on his appointment as the new president and chief executive officer of Lutheran Child and Family Service of Michigan, a statewide social service organization. Bob is a public servant in the true

est sense of the term. As anyone who has ever met Bob knows, he is a man who has devoted his life to helping Michigan's children and families to improve their own lives.

Since completing his distinguished academic career with an undergraduate degree from Concordia University and a Master of Science Degree in Exceptional Education from the University of Wisconsin-Milwaukee, Bob has been integrally involved in the community around him. He is a peer reviewer and team leader for the National Council on Accreditation of Services to Children and Families, the largest accrediting body for this work in North America. He is chairman of the Lutheran Church Missouri Synod's National Task Force on Children at Risk and Welfare Reform. He works closely with Bay City Public Schools, the Michigan Federation of Private Child and Family Agencies, and the Bay County Red Cross. In 1990, Bob was named Concordia University Alumnus of the Year. Additionally, he was appointed to the Michigan International Year of the Family Council by Governor Engler in 1994.

Now, Bob has the opportunity to bring his enormous talents to lead an organization he has been with for nearly 15 years, one that has a history deserving of such an impressive leader. Last year, Lutheran Child and Family Service of Michigan celebrated its 100th year, and the organization is stronger than ever, employing more than 250 people, caring for more than 500 children each day, and providing innumerable additional services to families and individuals through its 18 service sites. In 1999 alone, Lutheran Child and Family Services of Michigan impacted more than 9,000 lives through counseling, foster care placements, and adoption, among its many other programs.

Mr. Speaker, with countless statistics showing that Americans today are less involved in their communities than they once were, people like Bob Miles are among the most valuable resources our nation has to preserve the sanctity of our towns and neighborhoods. His contributions and efforts on behalf of Michigan's children and families are both legendary and tangible. They reflect the years of tireless commitment to preserving the vitality of the American family, and helping those who need it the most. Bob Miles has given selflessly of himself to better the lives of the people around him, and for that he deserves the highest of praise.

Bob has given so much to his community through the years, but it could not have been possible without the love and support of his family—including his wife Mary and their three children, Stephanie, Paul, and Nathan. As he undertakes his new position, I ask all my colleagues to join me in offering congratulations to Robert Miles, and extending our best wishes for continued success.

IN SUPPORT OF INTERNATIONAL  
SATELLITE REFORM

**HON. PETER DEUTSCH**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. DEUTSCH. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to rise in strong support of international satellite reform, S. 376, the Open-Market Reorga-

nization for the Betterment of International Telecommunications Act (ORBIT). I commend Chairman BLILEY and Congressmen MARKEY, DINGELL, OXLEY, and TAUZIN for their hard work in reaching a balanced compromise with Senate conferees. This bill has bipartisan support in the Congress and support from the United States commercial international satellite industry, as well as the largest U.S. users of international satellite services.

S. 376 will lead to more competition and eliminate the unfair market advantages long-held by intergovernmental treaty organizations. These entities have been dominant since the United States established an industry model in 1962 that relied on intergovernmental entities to provide commercial satellite services. Our 1962 Communications Satellite Act has been overtaken by amazing technological changes, which have created a vibrant private international satellite industry. We must assure that Intelsat and Inmarsat privatize in a manner that will put all industry players on an equal footing and not permit their intergovernmental legacy to distort competition.

Accordingly, ORBIT establishes explicit criteria for the privatization of Intelsat and Inmarsat. The FCC is directed to use these criteria in determining whether or not to allow the private successors and affiliates of Intelsat and Inmarsat access to the United States market. These criteria for judging and privatization, coupled with the market access restrictions if the criteria are not met, are very important to provide clear incentives to Intelsat, Inmarsat, and their spin-offs.

Intelsat, with its 143 member nations, is comprised largely of state telephone companies that control access to their national markets. They have a history of denying market access to U.S. companies that seek to compete with Intelsat. This bill will help open those markets. One of the provisions in S. 376 that is essential to this market-opening goal prohibits exclusive arrangements with foreign countries. It even-handedly prohibits any satellite operator serving the United States from enjoying the exclusive right to handle telecommunications traffic to or from the U.S. and any other country. The intent is to prevent a satellite operator from benefitting from exclusivity in any foreign market, no matter how it derives its exclusivity. Thus, all satellite operators will have a fair opportunity to provide global service.

I urge my colleagues to join in supporting this overdue reform of international satellite policy. This legislation will bring the full benefits of competition to consumers and it will begin to open access to foreign markets for United States companies.

HOMEOWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES  
FOR UNIFORMED SERVICES AND  
EDUCATORS ACT

**HON. JOHN J. LaFALCE**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. LaFALCE. Mr. Speaker, today, along with a number of my colleagues, I will be introducing the "Homeownership Opportunities for Uniformed Services and Educators Act," also known as the HOUSE Act.

This legislation reinvests a small portion of the profits earned each year by the Federal

Housing Administration (FHA) single family Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund (MMIF) in low down payment mortgages, to help localities with the recruitment and retention of qualified K-12 teachers, policemen and firemen, and to make it easier for these public servants to buy a home. This bill is supported by the National Education Association, the American Federation of Teachers, the American Association of School Administrators, and the Fraternal Order of Police.

Specifically, the HOUSE Act authorizes 1% down FHA mortgage loans for qualified teachers, policemen, and firemen, and defers the 2.25% up-front FHA premium normally charged for such loans until the loan is repaid. The effect of this is dramatic. A typical borrower buying a \$130,000 home would see their down payment reduced by \$5,000, from \$6,300 to \$1,300.

In addition, the bill provides an incentive for continued service as a teacher, policeman, or fireman, by waiving 20% of the deferred FHA premium for each year that a borrower continues to live and work in the school district or local jurisdiction that employs them. Thus, after five years, the FHA premium would not only be deferred, it would be waived altogether.

To qualify, a teacher must be a full time K-12 teacher, buying a home within the school district in which that teacher is employed, or a policeman or fireman who is buying a home in the jurisdiction that employs them.

The FHA single family MMIF mortgage fund is strong. This week, FHA released audited financial results for fiscal year 1999, which showed a \$5 billion increase in the fund's capital from the previous year. FHA's capital level of over \$16 billion is substantially in excess of Congressionally required capital standards. The HOUSE bill proposes to use a very small portion of these profits to help public servants who teach our children and who police our streets to buy a home in the community in which they serve. I urge its adoption.

#### HONORING THE POLICE OFFICERS OF THE 114TH PRECINCT, NEW YORK CITY

#### HON. JOSEPH CROWLEY

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. CROWLEY. Mr. Speaker, too often our news headlines are filled with bad news, while good stories and honorable people are overlooked. That is why today, I rise to pay tribute to some heroes who put their lives on the line to save then people, including two young children.

In the cold, early morning hours of January 26, 2000, Anti-crime unit Officers Daniel Lewis and Steve Zanetis of the 114th Precinct of the New York City Police Department responded to a burglar alarm. Instead of a crime scene, they smelled smoke and heard the cries of people trapped in the upper floor apartments.

Close behind the two anti-crime officers, Sergeants Andre Allen and Gary Placco arrived with other officers from the 114th to assist in a rescue. Amidst smoke and flames, the officers proceeded to locate and rescue 10 children, women and men trapped in the apartments.

Other 114th Precinct personnel on the scene were: Captain Ordonex, Officers Adam Schneider, John Pranzo, Jeffrey McRae, Greg Fraccalvieri, Joseph Reznick, James Kostaris, Greg Link, John Seymour, Kenneth Marchello, Sue Lentini, Frank Caruso, Wayne Kendall, and Terrence Floyd.

Thanks to the quick thinking and actions of these brave officers of the 114th Precinct, all residents survived. Three officers suffered minor injuries and were treated, then released from area hospitals.

Mr. Speaker I recently had an opportunity to meet these courageous officers who went above and beyond the call of duty, and to issue each of them Congressional Citations. Now I ask you to please join me in commending these intrepid police officers.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Ms. MILLENDER-McDONALD Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, February 29, 2000 and Wednesday, March 1, 2000 I was unable to vote due to an illness. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on rollcall vote number 26, S. 613, "yea" on rollcall vote number 27, H.R. 5, and "yea" on rollcall vote number 28, H.R. 1883.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

#### HON. LUCILLE ROYBAL-ALLARD

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD. Mr. Speaker, due to an unavoidable scheduling conflict in my Congressional District on Wednesday March 8, I was not present for rollcall votes 29-33. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on all five votes.

#### THE KUNO RADIO STATION

#### HON. SOLOMON P. ORTIZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. ORTIZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today I commending the pioneering Spanish-language radio station in Corpus Christi, Texas, KUNO Radio Station on their 50th anniversary. KUNO Radio has long been a force in my hometown of Robstown and my adopted home of Corpus Christi.

KUNO, which first went on the air in May of 1950, has been the political and cultural center of the Hispanic community of South Texas. KUNO was the first radio station in South Texas, and the second in the nation, to offer public affairs, talk radio and editorial programming in Spanish. KUNO takes a democratic approach to talk radio: whoever shows up to comment on programming gets air time.

On that note, let me offer a special tribute to Victor Lara Orregon, one of the great radio

personalities of South Texas who essentially grew up with KUNO. Victor joined the station in 1953, and he is the one who instituted the wildly popular public affairs show, "Comentarios." If you are a political candidate in South Texas, you go to "Comentarios" or you lose.

One of the early and great contributions to modern music by KUNO was the access and exposure they gave Tejano music and musicians. KUNO is recognized as one of the venues that launched a thousand Tejano talents, including the late, great Selena, who grew up in Corpus Christi. The Tejano genre grew up in South Texas, fortified by KUNO and other stations that followed their lead, launching Tejano as a strong, multi-million-dollar international industry.

KUNO has been a news leader in South Texas; they are often the first news organization to announce election results. Their tireless dedication to news and information is legendary. In 1970, Hurricane Celia knocked all local programming off the air. KUNO was the first radio station back on the air, thanks to an affiliate's generosity with a generator and emergency antenna.

Through the years, KUNO has provided for the culture of South Texas by holding large, outdoor concerts, bringing music to the people directly. They have provided for the political sensibilities of South Texas by providing a forum for political debates and treating us all to the best election and candidate coverage available. They have been a part of the journey of the local, state and federal governments in the last half of the 20th Century.

I ask that my colleagues join me today in recognizing the contributions made by KUNO to the social and political lives of South Texas.

#### INVESTING IN OUR COMMUNITIES

#### HON. DAVID E. BONIOR

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. BONIOR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Comcast Cablevision, for investing in our future. In Macomb County, Michigan, Comcast has offered free high speed Internet service to schools and libraries. More than seventy schools are already using this service and more schools are being wired each week.

While many Americans are prospering, it is important that we do all we can to ensure that everyone has the same opportunity to learn and excel in this digital age. It is crucial that all students have access in school to the latest technology and training so that when our children enter the workforce they are fully prepared to meet the challenges of the future.

Since passage of the Telecommunications Act of 1996, telecommunications companies have had a great incentive to invest in our communities and improve service to consumers. Comcast and many other telecommunications companies are beginning to offer more advanced services and lower prices for consumers and I applaud their efforts and the progress we have made since passage of the 1996 Act.

HONORING THE LATE DONALD C.  
DONALDSON

**HON. RALPH M. HALL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. HALL of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in tribute to Donald C. Donaldson, a man who dedicated more than thirty-five years of his life to federal service, who died on December, 12, 1999.

Mr. Donaldson was born on May 27, 1922, in Akron, Ohio. He lived through the Great Depression and went on to attend Akron University, where he enrolled in the ROTC program. The following year, in August of 1941, he enlisted as an Aviation Cadet in the Navy Reserve V-5 program. He was enlisted in the Naval Cadet Program at NACSB in Detroit. He went through flight preparation schools and graduated from Naval Air Training Command in Pensacola, FL, in 1944. This period in Mr. Donaldson's life was signified by his realization of his life's passion, which was to fly airplanes.

Mr. Donaldson subsequently accepted a commission in the United States Marine Corps as 2nd Lt. and took his oath of office on May 13, 1944. At this time he also received his Civil Aeronautics Administration Certificate for single engine aircraft. He served in the Pacific Theater of World War II, and at the end of the war, he was stationed in Okinawa. Afterwards, he returned to a reserve squadron in Akron.

2nd Lt. Donaldson worked tirelessly to become qualified on an astounding number of airplanes. He was certified to fly more than forty different aircraft at the end of his life, with the F4U Corsair being his favorite. 2nd Lt. Donaldson continued to improve his aviation skills and knowledge by attending numerous flight schools. He attended the Naval Justice Program at the U.S. Naval Academy. In January of 1951, he was promoted to the rank of Captain, and he was subsequently transferred to Carrier Air Group, Fleet Marines Fleet Pacific, Marine Corps Air Station El Toro. Attached to VMF(N)-513, Captain Donaldson flew over thirty-three missions against the supply routes of North Korea and was awarded the Air Medal at the forward airbase of 1st Marine Air Wing. In May of 1955, Cap. Donaldson was presented with permanent citations and Gold Stars for his service.

On June 30, 1956, Cap. Donaldson resigned his commission and was given his Honorable Discharge. Upon his departure from the USMC, Cap. Donaldson was a highly decorated officer. He had been presented with the Distinguished Flying Cross, Air Medal, PUCW 1\*, American Defense, WWII Victory Medal, Asiatic Pacific 1\*, Korean Service Ribbon 1\*, UN Ribbon, National Defense Service Medal, Presidential Unit Citation with 1\*, American Campaign Medal, Asiatic Pacific Campaign, Korean Service Medal w2\*, UN Service Medal, Korean PUC, and the Organized Res. Medal.

After the military, Cap. Donaldson continued to pursue his passion for aviation by accepting a job with the Goodyear Aircraft Corporation, where he continued to gain certifications on numerous aircraft. He then left Goodyear to accept a position with the National Aviation Facilities Experimental Center in Atlantic City, NJ, as an experimental systems pilot. He par-

ticipated in the "Runaway Jetliner" experiment as well as being involved in the development and modernization of the national system of navigation and traffic control facilities. He tested the Doppler radar which is now widely used in airports. In 1967, he was transferred to Dallas, where he became an Air Carrier Inspector with the Air Carrier District Office. He would later become a supervisor. Upon his retirement in 1986, he was recognized as the pilot qualified to fly the most airplanes as First seat.

He is survived by his wife of forty-nine years, Darlene Donaldson; his four sons James, Richard, Robert, and David; four granddaughters; and one grandson. Captain Donaldson dedicated his entire life to his family and country, all the while pursuing his life's calling aviation. So, Mr. Speaker, as we adjourn today, let us do so in the memory of Donald C. Donaldson and his many contributions to his family, aviation, air safety, and the people of America.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JUANITA MILLENDER-McDONALD**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. MILLENDER-McDONALD. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday March 8, 2000, I was in my district attending to district business therefore missing roll call votes 29 through 33. Had I been present I would have voted "yea" on these roll call votes.

HONORING THE 111TH ENGINEER  
BATTALION FROM ABILENE,  
TEXAS

**HON. CHARLES W. STENHOLM**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. STENHOLM. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 111th Engineer Battalion, based in Abilene, Texas. This group of soldiers has been mobilized to serve our Nation in Bosnia to enforce provisions of the Dayton Peace Accords.

I include for the RECORD a copy of a resolution that I offered the Battalion as they prepared to leave for Bosnia. I know all of my colleagues would join me in wishing these men and women our best wishes and hopes for a successful mission and a safe return home to their families.

#### RESOLUTION

Whereas, The 111th Engineer Battalion has been mobilized to serve our nation in Bosnia; and

Whereas, Their mission will serve to enforce the provisions of the Dayton Peace Accords, as well as, to serve as representatives of the United States to many citizens abroad; and

Whereas, The soldiers who serve in the 111th Engineer Battalion, based in Abilene, Texas, represent communities from across the Big Country and this Nation with great pride and distinction; and

Whereas, Not only have these brave individuals made tremendous sacrifices to serve their nation, but so have their families and employers; and

Whereas, We understand the growing unrest in our world today and the importance our military plays in the world scene, be it

*Resolved*, That I, Charles W. Stenholm, as Congressman for the 17th District of Texas, do officially recognize and extend my best wishes to the 111th Engineer Battalion, their successful mission, and their safe return home, and present this flag flown over the United States Capitol as a symbol of my pride in these distinguished military personnel.

CHARLES W. STENHOLM,  
*Member of Congress.*

THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF KGO  
RADIO

**HON. NANCY PELOSI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 75th anniversary of KGO Radio, a renowned San Francisco media institution.

I commend KGO for taking its commitment to our Bay Area Community seriously, both on and off the air.

KGO's news team and talk show hosts a trusted source of local information and commentary. The station has an outstanding record in giving back to the community. Perhaps that's why KGO has been Northern California's most listened to station for more than 2 years.

In addition to its seven hours of comprehensive news programming, KGO's programming menu also includes extensive local public affairs talk shows that provide the area with invaluable community forums.

But I am most pleased by enormous, decades-long commitment that KGO has made to its community off the air—efforts that have gone far beyond lip service to have a positive impact on the Bay Area. In 1999 alone, it sponsored and promoted more than 50 community events. For these events, KGO aired more than 1,800 promotional announcements, worth more than \$1,000,000. And, during the same period, it ran more than 3,500 public service announcements worth more than \$800,000. Finally, KGO-sponsored community service efforts raised \$1,950,000 for charitable causes.

Mr. Speaker, let us join in congratulating KGO on its 75th anniversary of serving the Bay Area Community. There is much here to celebrate—whether for the KGO Radio's award-winning news team or its efforts to support its local community; whether for its work in providing important on-air community forums or its willingness to promote local efforts from coastal cleanups to cultural diversity.

ALTERNATIVE EDUCATION FOR  
SAFE SCHOOLS AND SAFE COM-  
MUNITIES ACT OF 2000

**HON. DALE E. KILDEE**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Alternative Education for Safe Schools and Safe Communities Act of 2000.

This legislation will assist States and school districts in their efforts to fund alternative education programs and services for students who have been suspended or expelled from school and reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions. This legislation will provide our schools with an important tool in their efforts to ensure safer schools and safer communities while providing vital educational opportunity.

Presently, numerous students are suspended or expelled from school annually. Regardless of the reason these students received a suspension or expulsion—disruptive behavior, verbal abuse, a violent act—they are often left to fend for themselves without any educational services, or worse yet no supervision or guidance. The loss of educational services for these students is a destructive force to their chances to advance academically, be promoted from grade to grade, or to resist the temptation to dropout of school. In addition, students not in school and without any supervision can bring the problems which necessitated their suspension or expulsion to the community—increasing juvenile delinquency and possibly other violence and crime.

Under the Gun-Free Schools Act, schools are required to expel a student for one-year if they bring a firearm to school. In school year 1997–1998, that amounted to 3,507 expulsions. Unfortunately, fewer than half of these students were referred for alternative education placements. In fact, students expelled for firearm violations often do not receive educational services through alternative programs or schools. This lack of continuing education and supervision may put the community at risk of gun violence from these children.

While there are times when students may need to be removed from their school due to behavior, whether violent or non-violent, little is accomplished by risking their academic future through a lack of educational services. This legislation will promote alternative placements for suspended or expelled students so the problems they brought to school do not become problems of the community. The legislation would also require school districts to reduce the numbers of suspensions or expulsions of students. I would like to make it clear that this program's funding should not make it easier to remove students from the classroom in greater numbers, but rather should enhance the ability of school districts to provide continuing educational services for the students they do remove from the classroom.

Specifically, the Alternative Education for Safe Schools and Safe Communities Act of 2000 would authorize \$200 million to assist school districts in reducing the number of suspensions and expulsions and establishing or improving programs of alternative education for students who have been suspended or expelled from school. Additional specifics of the program include:

States would receive allocations based on the amount of Title I, Part A dollars they receive. States would then distribute 95 percent of this funding to local school districts.

School districts would use funding to both reduce the number of suspensions and expulsions and establish or develop alternative education programs.

Students participating in alternative education programs would be taught to challenging State academic standards.

Students would be provided with necessary mental health, counseling services and other necessary supports.

States and school districts would be required to coordinate efforts with other service providers including public mental health providers and juvenile justice agencies.

School districts would have to plan for the return of students participating in alternative education programs to the regular educational setting, if it is appropriate, to meet the needs of the child and his or her prospective classmates.

School districts would have to meet continually increasing performance goals to maintain funding. These performance goals include: reductions in the number of suspensions and expulsions, reduction in the number of incidents of violent and disruptive behavior, and others.

The Department of Education would be required to identify or design model alternative education programs for use by school districts and then disseminate these examples of "best practices."

The future of all our children is too critical to allow those who have been suspended or expelled from school to become the future burdens on our social welfare system, or to have the disruptive and unsafe acts they did in schools take place in the greater community. I urge Members to cosponsor this legislation.

#### GRANNY D'S CROSS-COUNTRY WALK IN SUPPORT OF CAMPAIGN FINANCE REFORM

**HON. CHRISTOPHER SHAYS**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. SHAYS. Mr. Speaker, my colleague MARTY MEEHAN of Massachusetts and I rise to commend 91 year old Doris Haddock—known throughout the country as Granny D—for her cross-country trek in support of campaign finance reform. Granny D began her crusade on January 1, 1999 in Pasadena, California and walked 3,200 miles across the country until she arrived at the Capitol on February 29, 2000.

She traveled through the snow in Maryland, dust storms in California's Mojave Desert, and heat of a Texas summer—all the way to Washington, DC. We are happy to place the attached statement into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, which in Doris' own words, describes how she chose to undertake such an amazing feat.

A native of Dublin, New Hampshire and an activist since the 1960s, Granny D felt compelled to push for campaign finance reform—and thus began her idea for walking cross-country. She has walked 10 miles a day, six days a week and stayed with people she met on "the road." Granny D inspired citizens from around the nation to walk with her for a day or so as she helped raise awareness of such an important issue—campaign finance reform.

In an age where cynicism and low voter turnout has become a norm, Granny D has demonstrated that civil activism is alive and well in America. We join Granny D in support of reforming our campaign finance system by eliminating the unregulated, unlimited campaign gifts known as soft money, applying our campaign laws to sham issue ads, and increasing disclosure. Combined together, these reforms will slam shut the open door that cur-

rently allows anyone—corporations, labor unions, wealthy individuals, even foreign nationals—to purchase limitless influence in our political system.

We believe this is a crucial first step to protect our democracy and thank Granny D for raising awareness of this issue by courageously walking across our nation in support of campaign finance reform. As Helen Keller stated: "I am only one; but still I am one. I cannot do everything, but still I can do something; I will not refuse to do something I can do."

#### STATEMENT OF GRANNY D

I have been asked to speak briefly this morning about the spiritual side of my journey across the United States.

I would like to share three brief thoughts.

The first thought is that God often speaks to us with crazy ideas. He is full of them, I think.

When I first received the thought of walking across America for campaign finance reform, I knew it was a rather crazy idea. It would have been easy to brush it off as such, and to change the subject as my son and I drove along that Florida highway where the thought first came.

What is calling, anyway? It is a picture window that suddenly appears, revealing a possible alternative life.

Possible, yes. I indeed might be able to walk the country—as I have kept up my physical conditioning with cross-country skiing and walking. Possible, yes—for such an undertaking (if it were not in fact an undertaking!) might bring some needed attention to the issue. And possible, yes—it might in fact be more interesting than staying at home in my regular routine. One could imagine it working out and doing some good. But a crazy notion!

If God sends us a crazy idea and we toss it off as such, I think He understands. He will be happy to send it along to someone else, or try some other ideas on us later.

If it keeps coming back, slightly revised, earmarked, highlighted, perhaps it is a calling. So we consider it more seriously.

If it seems immediately appealing, however, and we jump for it, is there some test to know if it is a proper calling and not just our own harebrained senility?

Well, I think there may indeed be a test, and that is the second spiritual aspect of my journey that I would like to share.

Despite all my best efforts before I left on my walk to arrange help along the way, I got almost no response from the churches or police departments along the way to whom I sent a thousand letters of self-introduction.

So my first steps were little leaps of faith into the kind heart and soul of America, and my faith was of course rewarded. Most remarkably, though there were troubles along the way, and a hospital stay and so many breakdowns of my support van and so many little traumas and troubles, what I saw on the whole was an opening up of heaven, and a flowing down of all the resources and all the right people I needed.

After my difficult crossing of the Mojave Desert in California, I crossed the bridge into Parker, Arizona on my 89th birthday. The Marine Corps Marching Band was at the bridge, playing Happy Birthday to me. The remarkable part of that story is that they just happened to be there on other business. It also happened to be Parker Days, and they were delighted to have me lead the parade and tell the whole city about campaign finance reform, which I did. When, some days later I walked into Wickenburg, Arizona, it happened to be Wickenburg Days and again I found myself in a parade and telling everyone about campaign reform.

Now, the parade organizers did not know me or care about this issue, but the family who kindly put me up there, after my stay in the hospital for dehydration, happened to be good friends of the parade chairman. It was like that every step of the way—always just the right person at just the right moment.

It continued across the country. Let me remind you that last Sunday it rained heavily in Washington, and last Monday it was very cold and windy, and Tuesday, when a nice day would be good for the big march across town to the Capitol steps, why, the weather here was a perfect springlike day.

The blessings have been uncountable.

I do not mean to suggest that the Lord makes doing the right thing easy. My walk was not easy. But he seems to clear the field for you when you are ready to do serious battle. He does appreciate, I think, our moments of courage and He does not mind showing His hand at such times.

Finally, let me make a spiritual note regarding the issue itself.

Is it not so that we are charged in this life with doing God's work where we might? Are we not the keepers of our brothers and sisters? Are we not to be agents for justice and equality and kindness? Surely we cannot fulfill our high role if we do not have the power to manage our collective resources. Surely, only a free and empowered people can properly take care of one another. If we allow ourselves to lose our ability to manage our considerable common wealth to best address the great needs of our people, we abdicate our earthly responsibilities to our God, do we not?

If we allow the greedy and the inhuman elements to steal away from us our self-government, because we did not have the energy or the courage to fight for it and to use it as a tool of our love and our wisdom, how shall we answer for that?

Is campaign finance reform a religious issue? It is one of the central religious issues of our times, and I of course speak to the condition of the entire world, not just our few states. If we are to do the right things for our people and for the lovely home given us by God, then we must, as free adults, have the power to do what is right. I do not mean that churches and states should mix: it is enough that our civic values, which we all share with only a few arguments around the edges, are informed by our deeper beliefs in the equality of people and basic rights of all God's creations.

#### PENSION COVERAGE

#### HON. SAM GEJDENSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. GEJDENSON. Mr. Speaker, America's workers have made the record 107 month economic expansion possible. They deserve to reap the rewards of our national prosperity. They deserve income security, and in particular, they deserve to have a pension and the ability to save for retirement. Approximately 51 million workers—about half the workforce—lack pension coverage of any kind. For these workers, retirement security is very precarious and their economic future more uncertain.

This Congress has an obligation to expand pension coverage to boost retirement security for all Americans. We know what will make a difference to millions of workers. We should, for example, increase the portability of dif-

ferent types of pensions by allowing employees to more easily roll-over these assets when they change jobs. We should provide tax relief to help small businesses starting a pension plan. We should reduce vesting periods. These are common-sense steps, and steps that we are all ready and willing to take. In fact, more than 100 members of this body have joined me sponsoring the Retirement Security Act, which would implement each of these options, and more.

The bill before us today, H.R. 3932, takes some steps in the right direction on pensions. Regrettably, it shortchanges average working men and women who need the most help in saving for retirement. Instead, it sweetens the pension pot for the wealthiest employees, those who have little to worry about with respect to their own retirement. The implicit, unsubstantiated promise of H.R. 3832 is that highly-compensated employees, who presumably have decision-making authority about pension coverage, will expand pension coverage for lower-wage employees as they attempt to take advantage of the bill's enhanced contribution and disbursement features for themselves. It is an \$18 billion gamble that may not pay off for most workers. The only certainty is that the highly compensated will benefit.

According to an analysis prepared by the Center on Budget and Policy Priorities, of the \$18 billion in pension benefits in H.R. 3832, 91.5% would accrue to the top 10 percent of earners, those with annual incomes above \$89,000. At the same time, the lowest 60% of earners would receive less than 1% of the benefits in the package. To make matters worse, the Center's analysis shows that the increasing income thresholds for determining contributions to pension plans from \$170,000 to \$200,000, employers can save money by reducing pension coverage for lower wage employees. Indeed, if an employer contributes a flat percentage of each employee's pay to a pension, he can continue to reward the highest paid workers with the same dollar contribution while reducing the percentage of pay contributed to each worker at the lower end of the pay-scale.

I believe that we would better direct these resources toward middle- and lower-income workers and toward small business that want to provide retirement security to their employees. My bill accomplishes these goals by shortening vesting periods, providing credits to small businesses that start plans, and boosting pension equity for women. The President has proposed a series of pension and savings initiatives that would enhance retirement savings. He proposes tax credits that would encourage small businesses to establish a pension plan and to match employee contributions. He also proposes tax credits for financial institutions that establish retirement savings accounts for lower-income workers who do not have pension coverage at work.

Some in this body think passing these pension provisions today gets Congress off the hook in terms of real reform. It does not. I stand here to say that our job is far from finished when it comes to helping middle- and low-income workers save for retirement. I hope that we can all continue to work on this issue and pass comprehensive legislation expanding size pension coverage to every American.

#### BLACK HISTORY MONTH HONOREES

#### HON. NICK LAMPSON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. LAMPSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor local citizens from the 9th District of Texas who were chosen during Black History Month for their work. While the dedication of African-American leaders is well-known throughout the United States, local citizens, right here in the Southeast Gulf Coast region, are just as important to ensuring equal rights for all Texans. Last month I asked members of the communities in the 9th District to nominate individuals for my "Unsung Heroes" award that gives special recognition to those unsung heroes, willing workers, and individuals who are so much a part of our nation's rich history. Recipients were chosen because they embodied a giving and sharing spirit, and had made a contribution to our nation.

These individuals have not only talked the talk, but they have walked the walk. They have worked long and hard for equal rights in their churches, schools, and in their communities. While their efforts may not make the headlines every day, their pioneering struggle for equality and justice is nevertheless vital to our entire region. This region of Southeast Texas is not successful in spite of our diversity; we are successful because of it.

Please join me in recognizing and congratulating these community leaders for their support of bringing justice and equality to Southeast Texas. It is leaders like these men and women that continue to be a source of pride not only during Black History Month, but all year long. The winners of this year's "Unsung Heroes" award are:

Ms. Sharon Lewis, Mrs. Eslen Brown Love, Constable Terry Petteway, Mr. Alex Pratt, Miss June Pinckney Ross, Ms. Ann Simmons, Mr. James Steadham, Mrs. Maggie Williams, Mrs. Valencia Huff Arceneaux, Mr. T.D. Armstrong, Mr. Melton Bell, Mr. Craig Bowie, Ms. Linda Brooks, Dr. Lisa Cain, Mrs. Izola Collins, Mr. Paul A. Cox, Pastor Marvin C. Delaney, Mrs. Idella Duncan, Mrs. Gloria Ellisor, Mayor Leon Evans, Ms. Vera Bell Gary, Ms. Wilina Gatson, Mrs. Ann Grant, Mr. Deyossie Harris, Mrs. Edna Jensen, Mr. Cleveland Nisby, Mr. Collis Cannon, Reverend Ransom Howard, Mrs. Hargie Faye Savoy, Judge Theodore Johns, Mr. Eddie Seniguar, Mrs. Marie Hubbard, Judge Paul Brown, Mr. Lewis Hodge, Mrs. Mandy Plummer, Mrs. Fabiola B. Small, Dr. Rosa Smith-Williams, Mr. Tobe Duhon, Rev. Isaiah Washington, Sr., Mrs. Barbara Hannah-Keys, Ms. Nina Gail Stelley, Mr. Herman Hudson, Mrs. Lillian M. LeBlanc, Dr. Carroll Thomas, Dr. William T.B. Lewis, Mr. Raymond Johnson, Mr. Amos Evans, State Rep. Al Price, and Rev. G.W. Daniels.

Mr. Speaker, the recipients of the "Unsung Heroes" award are dedicated and hardworking individuals who have done so much for their neighbors and for this nation as a whole. Today, I stand to recognize their spirit and to say that I am honored to be their Representative.



HONORING CENTRAL CONNECTICUT  
STATE UNIVERSITY MEN'S BAS-  
KETBALL TEAM

**HON. NANCY L. JOHNSON**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mrs. JOHNSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise enthusiastically, to pay tribute to the Central Connecticut State University men's basketball team for their accomplishment this week.

This past Monday, the CCSU Blue Devils defeated Robert Morris 63-46 to win the Northeast Conference tournament final for the first time since joining Division I in 1986. This is an amazing achievement for coach Howie Dickenman and the entire Blue Devil team. The team will now make their first appearance playing the NCAA tournament.

The leadership and hard work demonstrated by coach Howie Dickenman and the Blue Devils is an example to us all. While finishing with a record of 4-22, only two seasons ago, they have proven this year, that through persistence and strength of character, any sought after goal is possible.

I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating this extraordinary group of young men and their coaches, parents, classmates and others who supported and cheered them on through this long journey.

Their determination throughout the entire season has been an inspiration to all of us. Congratulations to the Blue Devils and best of luck in the NCAA tournament!

IN RECOGNITION OF KATIE  
MCGWIN

**HON. ROBERT A WEYGAND**

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. WEYGAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Katie McGwin, a resident of North Kingstown, Rhode Island and a fifth-grader at Quidnesset Elementary School. Katie was among the winners of this year's National Sportsmanship Day essay contest for her positive essay on responsibility and encouragement.

March 7th was the Tenth Annual National Sportsmanship Day and I am pleased to say that in all of the fifty states, and in one hundred and one other countries students, athletes, coaches, and educators spent the day focusing on the merits of good sportsmanship. In more than 12,000 institutions worldwide, students participated in programs such as "The No Swear Zone", essay and poster contests, student roundtables, and coaches forums in an effort to promote good sportsmanship among our youth.

Just ten years ago this program existed only in Rhode Island elementary schools, founded by my good friend Mr. Daniel E. Doyle, Jr., Executive Director of the Institute for International Sport at the University of Rhode Island, and now it is an international event. This is a wonderful program whose value is evident by the speed of its growth and broad reach of its appeal.

Katie's essay espoused the virtues of true sportsmanship and brought to light the bene-

fits that sportsmanship can offer to our families, our communities, and our nation. Sportsmanship, as Katie notes, is about many things, both on and off the field of play; it is about hard work and effort, responsibility, kindness to others, honesty, fair play, ethical behavior and it is about encouragement. These values are beneficial for our homes, for our workplaces and for our schools. In an age when violence too often penetrates our educational institutions and our communities, these are the ethics and values—which Katie so eloquently discussed—that must be promoted and encouraged by parents, educators and coaches.

I would like to commend Katie for her wisdom and her character and want to encourage her to maintain them throughout her life as they will bring her success in her professional and personal life.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. GARY G. MILLER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. GARY MILLER of California. Mr. Speaker, on Wednesday, March 8, 2000 votes were held while I was in route to the Capitol, as were other members, therefore, I missed roll call votes 29, 30, and 31.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" on the passage of H.R. 1827, the "Government Waste Corrections Act."

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" to suspend the rules and pass the H.R. 2952 redesignate the facility of the U.S. Postal Service in Greenville, South Carolina as the Keith D. Oglesby Station.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yes" to suspend the rules and pass, as amended H.R. 3018 to designate the U.S. Postal Office in Charleston, South Carolina as the Marybelle H. Howe Post Office.

A TRIBUTE IN HONOR OF CONNIE  
M. DEFORD

**HON. JAMES A. BARCIA**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. BARCIA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a wonderful lady, Ms. Connie Deford, of Bay City, Michigan, on the occasion of her retirement from her post as City Clerk of Bay City. Connie has been our trusted clerk since 1986, and I can assure you, Mr. Speaker, that both in character and spirit, Connie is an inspiration to those around her and will be sorely missed by her co-workers.

Connie was born in my home town of Bay City and has a long history of contributing to our community, both as an elected official and as a civic leader. In fact, Connie's service to Bay City is touted as a model for all aspiring elected officials. Everyone who has worked with Connie knows that her retirement will leave very big shoes to fill. However, her accomplishments as City Clerk will endure as a blueprint for all to follow.

Connie is very active in our city's civic affairs and has been awarded numerous awards

for her extraordinary service. Mr. Speaker, time restraints dictate that I mention just a few of the many honors she has received. Perhaps one of her most prestigious awards is the Quill Award, given by the International Institute of Municipal Clerks, the largest international clerk organization, to recognize the most qualified and dedicated clerk in the world. Other awards she has received include being elected Michigan Municipal Clerk of the Year, nominated for the Bay Area Chamber of Commerce Athena Award for Professional Women, awarded the Paul Harris Fellowship Rotarian of the Year, and awarded the Great Lakes College Honorary Doctor of Letters, as well as the Municipal League Special Award of merit.

Her contributions to our community are equally impressive. Connie has been an active member of her church, Holy Trinity, where she is on the Administration Commission and serves as a member of the Adult Choir. She is involved with such admirable institutions as the March of Dimes, the Salvation Army, the Great Lakes College Foundation, and the Michigan Municipal League Foundation.

With Connie's unflagging energy and civic-minded commitment, I am sure that retirement will not mean slowing down. Rather, it will mean a new direction and a new focus that will produce results which impact positively on many, many people in our community. I am also sure that Connie will enjoy the company of her daughter Brigitte and son Keane, as well as her two grandchildren Austin and Angela.

Mr. Speaker, I invite you and our colleagues to join with me in congratulating Bay City City Clerk Connie Deford on the occasion of her retirement, and thanking her for her selfless service to our community. We in Bay City, Michigan, have been truly fortunate to be the recipient of her commitment and vision. Connie has not only been a motivator and creator of civic pride, she precisely embodies our civic pride. I wish her continued success in all her future endeavors.

DRUG COMPANY PROFITEERING:  
HOW MUCH IS ENOUGH FOR  
AMGEN?

**HON. FORTNEY PETE STARK**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. STARK. Mr. Speaker, submitted are portions of a letter which I have sent to the Federal Trade Commission and others.

When one looks at Amgen's SEC filings, it is clear that this price increase was not necessary. It is pure profiteering, largely at taxpayer expense. It is another example of how Flo and her allies cannot be believed in the debate of a Medicare pharmaceutical benefit.

The ancient Greeks knew the wisdom of moderation, and called it the Golden Mean. All these guys know is Golden Greed.

COMMITTEE ON WAYS AND MEANS,  
SUBCOMMITTEE ON HEALTH,  
*Washington, DC, March 8, 2000.*

Hon. ROBERT PITOFKY,  
Chairman, Federal Trade Commission,  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I urge the Commission to conduct an immediate investigation of the recent price increase in recombinant

human erythropoietin (rHuEPO) announced by the Amgen Corporation. Such an investigation would be very important in the developing debate on the rapid rise in pharmaceutical expenses (15.4% last year) and Medicare payment policy.

Briefly put, Amgen makes about \$1 billion dollars a year *in profit* on the sale of its sole source, monopoly product EPOGEN to Medicare providers. Medicare pays \$10 for a unit that, the last we know, cost about 50 cents to make. The company recovered its entire R&D costs for this product—about \$170 million—in roughly the first year of its sales to Medicare (1990).

While the price/unit has been stable since 1991, the cost to Medicare has soared while the improvement in patients' hematocrits has been disappointingly flat. Part of the reason for the increase in dosage is that we have set a higher quality standard for the desired hematocrits. But I believe another, big part of the reason that the dosage has increased so dramatically is that while Medicare reimburses providers \$10 per 1000 units, the company provides a volume discount, which encourages providers to use more EPO, because the more they use, the more the dialysis centers make. It is reported that some providers are getting paid \$10 by Medicare for a unit that may cost them around \$8.50.<sup>1</sup> I believe this "volume discount" has caused many American dialysis centers to administer the product in an inefficient and even wasteful manner.

The national Dialysis Outcomes Quality Initiative (DOQI), and most foreign nations recommend the administration of EPO subcutaneously—in an injection rather than through the dialysis process. When administered this way, there is data that, at least for a period of time, about 60-70% of patients would need about 30% less EPO. The company's volume discount, therefore, has probably caused Medicare and the taxpayer to spend \$100 to \$200 million more per year than would be needed if we administered the drug the way the quality experts recommend and most foreign countries practice.

In addition to the waste and extra expenditure, too much EPO can be dangerous. It has side effects.<sup>2</sup>

The Amgen price increase takes advantage of the first increase in Medicare payment for dialysis in a decade. In the Balanced Budget Refinement Act of 1999, Congress increased dialysis payments by 1.2% in 2000 and another 1.2% in 2001—about \$300 million in new spending over the next five years. As one prominent Midwest nephrologist wrote me, "If my calculations are correct, this [3.9% increase in the cost of EPO to a dialysis center] almost exactly matches the fair and needed increase in the composite reimburse-

ment that [Congress] gave to the dialysis providers this year. I guess none of us anticipated that the increase would be consumed to enhance Amgen's profits. I thought it would go to computers, staff, and Continuous Quality Improvement programs in dialysis units. How naive of me." How naive of Congress.

With all this as a background, Amgen's price hike is important to understand and can help shape the Congressional debate on drug reimbursement policy and Medicare payment policy to dialysis centers.

First, I find Amgen's explanation to providers (copy attached) interesting: "This change in price, the first since EPOGEN was launched eleven years ago, is being implemented as a result of continually increasing costs associated with Amgen's business."

As I indicated there is data from a decade ago that the cost of production was about 5 percent and that all R&D costs were recovered in a year. In many industries, productivity is able to actually lower the cost of various high tech products. Can the FTC tell us what the cost of production is today, and how that compares to other increased costs of Amgen in marketing, litigation against potential competitors, overhead, and political contributions, etc.? Can the FTC give us an estimate of the current yearly profit to Amgen from sales of EPO and how much this price increase will add to those profits? The latest 10-Q for Amgen for the three months ended September 30, 1999 shows net income of \$300 million, compared to \$221 million in the same period, 1998. That same SEC filing shows product sales of \$769.2 million and cost of sales, \$98.9 million. The cost of sales as a percent of total sales actually declined between 1998 and 1999. All of this calls into question Amgen's justification for the price increase. As one security analyst is quoted as saying (attached) "They promised Wall Street a certain level of earnings this year. . . . Maybe this is the only way they can achieve that."

So did costs of production really go up that much, or did Amgen's other expenses go up, and this is just a way to tap the Medicare cash cow? The answer to this type of question is important for how we structure a Medicare prescription drug benefit.

The coincidence of Amgen's price increase absorbing most of the Congressional dialysis payment increase should inspire us to consider ways to prevent that from happening again. If we don't, it would be easy to see Amgen doing another 3.9% increase next spring to absorb the second 1.2% dialysis payment increase scheduled for 2001.

Thank you for your early review of this entire situation.

Sincerely,

PETE STARK,  
Member of Congress.

## INDIA'S RELIGIOUS TYRANNY GOES ON

HON. EDOLPHUS TOWNS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, March 9, 2000

Mr. TOWNS. Mr. Speaker, I was distressed to read an article in the Washington Times of February 25 datelined Calcutta reporting that

the government of India's state of Orissa is now requiring anyone converting to Christianity to get a government permit. This policy has been met with protests in front of government offices in Calcutta, because it is just the latest chapter in the ongoing religious tyranny in India.

As you know, thousands of Sikhs languish in Indian jails without charge and without trial. These Sikhs are political prisoners in "the world's largest democracy." Many of them have been in prison illegally since the Indian government attacked the Sikhs' holiest shrine, the Golden Temple in Amritsar, in June 1984. That is coming up on 16 years now!

The BJP, which runs the central government, destroyed the most revered mosque in India, the mosque at Ayodhya, intending to put a Hindu temple on the site. Hindus affiliated with the BJP's parent organization, the RSS, burned a Christian missionary and his two sons, ages 8 and 10, to death in their jeep while they slept. The mob surrounded the family's jeep and chanted "Victory to Hannuman," a Hindu god. RSS-affiliated Hindu extremists have burned down Christian churches, schools, and prayer halls. They have murdered priests and raped nuns. In 1997, the police broke up a Christian religious festival with gunfire.

The Indian government has sent over 700,000 troops to Kashmir and half a million to Punjab, Khalistan, to suppress the freedom of the Muslim and Sikh populations there. It has killed tens of thousands of Christians, Sikhs, Muslims, Assamese, Manipuris, Dalits, and others.

President Clinton will soon be going to India. While he is there, one important thing that he should do is to press the Indian government on the subject of human rights. If we do not support the human rights of all the people of South Asia, who will?

I call on the President to raise these issues in the strongest terms. Also, we should cut off aid to India until it observes the basic standards of human rights for all and we should support freedom for the people of South Asia by going on record in support for self-determination for the people of Punjab, Khalistan, Kashmir, Nagaland, and the other nations of South Asia that now live under occupation.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to submit the Times article into the RECORD.

[From the Washington Times, Feb. 25, 2000]

CHRISTIANS IN INDIA PROTEST 'BIAS' ORDER

CALCUTTA—Hundreds of Christians converged on a government office yesterday to protest what they said was a discriminatory order by the Orissa state government on religious conversions.

The protesters said the order, which requires people who are converting to Christianity to apply to a local official and get police clearance, violates the Indian Constitution.

The protesters belong to the Bangiya Christiya Parishad, or United Forum of Catholics and Protestants. They delivered a statement to the Orissa government through its local office in Calcutta.

<sup>1</sup>One physician has indicated to me that Amgen discounts EPO linked to the potential growth in use per year. "Rumor has it that the target growth is greater than the incident growth in the ESRD program. In other words, if the ESRD program grows by 7%, the Amgen target for discount is some larger number, like 10%." Another expert tells me that the volume incentive is based on 5% growth per quarter. (If the FTC could determine the exact nature of the discount, it would be very helpful to understanding prescribing patterns.)

<sup>2</sup>One analyst notes that between 1989 and 1995, fifteen month survival has decreased by 20% for hemodialysis patients. This analyst asks if it is possible that inappropriate dispensing of EPO may play a contributing role? See attached. This is a question I believe needs to be investigated by public health authorities.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, March 9, 2000*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, on March 8, 2000 I had to delay my return to the Capitol

in order to attend to personal business in my district. During my absence, I missed rollcall vote 29, 30, 31 and 32.

Had I been present, I would have voted yes on the motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 2952, the Keith D. Oglesby Post Office, H.R. 3018, the South Carolina Post Office Designation and S. Con. Res. 91 recognizing the forcible incorporation of the Baltic states of

Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania into the former Soviet Union.

I would have also voted "yes" on final passage of H.R. 1827 the Government Waste Corrections Act on March 8, 2000.